

Jordan Times

An independent daily published by the Jordanian Press Syndicate
جوردان تايمز صحيفة يومية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية الراي

Bhutto appoints mother as her deputy

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto appointed her mother Nusrat as her deputy and brought four other women into her cabinet Wednesday. They were among 23 new ministers and ministers of state appointed when Bhutto, who took office in December, doubled the size of her team to 47, state television said. Nusrat, widow of the late Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, was appointed senior minister without portfolio. As the only "senior" minister she would automatically deputise for Bhutto. Women were appointed as ministers of state (junior ministers) for education, population welfare, women's affairs and special education and social welfare. With Bhutto herself, there are now six women in the cabinet, the most in Pakistan's 41-year history. Bhutto, 35 appointed an all-male cabinet of 24 after she was sworn in on Dec. 2. The new appointments, announced on the eve of Pakistan's National Day Thursday, included two independents and two minor party ministers. The rest belonged to Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP). The PPP emerged as the largest party from last November's elections but fell short of an overall majority.

Volume 14 Number 4043

AMMAN THURSDAY-FRIDAY, MARCH 23-24, 1989, SHABAAN 16-17, 1410

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence



Crown Prince attends air force graduation

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday attended a ceremony for the graduation of a new batch of fighter pilots and pilot trainers held at Al Hassan Military Air Base, and distributed diplomas and awards to the graduates. Prince Hassan congratulated the graduates who included pilots from a number of Arab countries and urged them to exert their full efforts and work with diligence to serve their Arab

nation. The commander of the air base also delivered a speech on the occasion. The graduation ceremony, which coincided with celebrations on the air base's anniversary, was attended by the commander of the Royal Jordanian Air Force and other senior air force commanders. Later Prince Hassan made a tour of the base and its services which included the Princess Rahmah Kindergarten and a medical centre.

King Hussein hopes work will continue to build ideal homeland

ZARQA (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein has expressed hope that the work, construction, frankness, and participation would continue on all levels to build the ideal homeland and serve the generations to come.

Addressing the final session of the development council meetings of the Amman, Zarqa, and Balqa governorates which convened Wednesday at Zarqa College, the King said: "This is a stage of work and construction. Therefore we call on the Almighty to inspire us to undertake the right decisions, and to help us continue building in every field through cooperation, sincerity, and awareness."

Everyone's contribution in shouldering the responsibility and mapping out the course, through awareness, knowledge, free discussion and constructive dialogue, is a positive and important sign, the King added.

Touching on the issue of environment as "our present to the generations to come" which has become a world issue, the King addressed the participants saying "you will meet again in the spirit of the one family to sincerely make the future."

The King expressed full support and appreciation for participants and said that this is a busy day in which discussions dealt



His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday attends the final session of the regional development council meetings in Zarqa (Petra photo)

with what this dear part of the Arab World needs, the achievements and aspirations.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan earlier welcomed the King and asked the rapporteurs of the regional committees to present the issues discussed and the recommendations reached.

Planning Minister Taher Kanaan also explained to the King the achievements attained during the various stages of meetings and dialogues.

He hoped that these periodic meetings would continue since they provide a new style of responsibility practicing and promoting the framework of cooperation between the citizens and the officials.

"These meetings express a

leading experience in constructive and practical dialogue where it demonstrates the developmental needs of every region," Kanaan said.

He said: "The several stages of dialogue we passed through, enabled us to react genuinely with the needs for development in all the regions of the homeland. This also led to the contribution of the local societies in different regions, to adopt decisions related

to development expenditures."

Kanaan said these meetings are related to the concept of national participation and creating a balance between the actual and logical needs on the one hand and the available resources of the state on the other.

Present were Chief of the Royal Court Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and a number of ministers (See earlier storey on page 3).

King receives telephone calls

Later Wednesday, King Hussein received a telephone call from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak during which they discussed issues of mutual interest.

King Hussein also received a telephone call from Syrian President Hafez Al Assad during which they exchanged views on regional issues.

Shelling continues as Syrians redeploy around east Beirut

BEIRUT (AP) — Druze militiamen and Falangist gunners fought intermittent clashes with rockets and mortars in and around Beirut Wednesday.

Police said at least eight people were wounded. That brought the overall toll to 66 people killed and 219 injured since March 8, when shelling duels broke out between Major-General Michel Aoun's 20,000-strong army units and Druze warlord Walid Junblat's Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) militia.

A police spokesman said six civilians were wounded in west Beirut and its Shi'ite Muslim southern slums while two others were injured in east Beirut's Tahweeta and Dekwaneh residential districts.

PSP gunners blasted the Beirut art in the afternoon, setting fire to a merchant ship which the spokesman identified as "Naji 1." He had no details about its flag or owners.

Rockets also slammed into the coastal strip near the port of Jounieh, causing damage but no casualties.

The spokesman said PSP gunners fired at least 16 Katyusha rockets from a truck-mounted multi-barrel rocket launcher in west Beirut at the Falangist enclave north east of the city.

The spokesman said Syrian troops and allied opposition forces maintained a blockade of the 310-square-mile (800-square-kilometre) Falangist enclave for the second straight day.

All five gates linking the enclave with the rest of Lebanon were closed.

Militia allies of Aoun and Junblat have avoided the shooting in the 15-day battle, which threatens to spark all-out violence in the war-plagued nation.

However, Syrian troops and allied regular forces of Major-General Sami Khathib's 22,000-strong opposition army units blockaded the enclave as of Tuesday to retaliate for a siege imposed by Aoun on militia-run ports in the opposition sector of Lebanon.

Khatib's soldiers manning sandbagged checkpoints at the western side of Beirut's mid-city museum crossing roughed news photographers who tried to shoot pictures of civilians pleading to cross to the eastern sector.

"I'll shoot bullets into your eyes if you shoot pictures," one private, shouted and pointed his M-16 assault rifle at photographers after cocking it.

The block prevented the five Arabic-language daily papers published in east Beirut from hitting the news stands in the western sector. The seven west Beirut-based dailies were not sold in the Falangist enclave.

This month's confrontation broke out when Aoun, a Maronite, ordered a blockade of militia-run ports in an effort to reactivate tax collection at the five government harbours along Lebanon's 210-kilometre Mediterranean coast.

Syrian-backed factions rejected Aoun's decision and the Maronite general responded by declaring a "war of liberation" against Syria's forces in Lebanon.

Syria, with 40,000 troops deployed in eastern and northern Lebanon as well as west and south Beirut, is the main power broker in the nation.

Aoun and other Falangist leaders accuse the Syrians of not fulfilling their mandate from the 21-nation Arab League in 1976. Aoun came to power Sept. 22, when former President Amin Gemayel named him head of a military cabinet to rule pending the election by parliament of a new head of state.

Syria's opposition allies rejected Aoun's appointment, which violated a 1943 unwritten national covenant that gave the premiership to the Sunni Muslims, the house speakership to the Shi'ite Muslims and the presidency to the Maronites.

Syrian-backed Lebanese factions recognised only the cabinet of Acting Prime Minister Salim Hoss, a Sunni, who ruled during Gemayel's term.

Syria moved its troops in Beirut to new positions Wednesday and called for the ousting of Aoun who has been battling Syrian allies for two weeks.

Falangist security sources said the Syrians had taken up combat positions in areas ringing east Beirut and a coastal strip and mountains to the northeast.

Israelis kill Arab child during protests

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israeli troops in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip shot dead an Arab child Wednesday and wounded at least 16 Palestinians as residents of the territories held an anti-U.S. protest strike.

Staff at the West Bank's Tul-karm Hospital said Ahmad Abdul Fatah Al H'did, 11, was shot in the heart and a 12-year-old was hit in the leg when troops fired on protesters at Tul-karm Palestinian Refugee Camp in the West Bank.

Palestinian sources said at least four more West Bankers were wounded in clashes with Israeli

forces and Gaza hospitals reported 11 injured by army fire during a general strike marking the first anniversary of the U.S. closure of PLO offices in Washington.

The sources said relatives took H'did's body before Israeli officials could examine it. Military sources said a senior army officer was probing the report, and the 40,000 residents of the camp and Tul-karm town were confined to their homes to prevent word of the killing sparking further unrest.

Curfews were also in force on all eight of the Gaza Strip's refugee camps and some parts of

Gaza City, affecting about half the densely-populated strip's 650,000 Arab residents.

Witnesses in the city reported an incident in which they said a para-military border police trooper held a local youth at knifepoint in an effort to force protesters to give themselves up.

"They grabbed a passing cyclist and one border policeman put a knife to his throat and told the demonstrators he would butcher him if they did not surrender," a witness told Reuters.

"When no one responded the police clubbed the boy, who was 12 or 13 years old, then left him lying in the road," he said.

Two other witnesses supported the story, which an army spokesman said he would check.

The spokesman said he was also checking reports by residents of the West Bank town of Ramallah that armed Jewish settlers had smashed Arab-owned cars parked along the road to Jerusalem before being dispersed by soldiers.

Israeli police have claimed the break-up of a major Palestinian commando organisation in Jerusalem.

Police said Tuesday the cell was run by the PLO's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine faction.

Danish aide challenges Israel to test PLO

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Danish Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen challenged Israel Wednesday to "call the PLO's bluff" by talking to the Palestinian group.

Ellemann-Jensen, who heads a forum of Nordic countries, said he was seeking an explanation of Israeli policy towards Palestinians before a forum meeting later this month. He met Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister Moshe Arens.

"It is our strong feeling that ways must be found to establish contacts to further the peace process," he told reporters after meeting Arens, stressing that Denmark supported Israel's concern for security.

Israelis back elections under reported U.S. peace plan

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli politicians on the left and right gave backing Wednesday to elections in the occupied territories linked to peace talks, both reported to be part of a new U.S.-backed Middle East plan.

An Israeli legislator, who met recently with PLO officials in New York, said he believes the PLO has accepted the plan, which reportedly shuts the organisation out of formal participation in the first stage of Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

Also Wednesday, a conference of foreign Jews from 40 countries adopted a resolution expressing solidarity with Israel at a conference called by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

Under the American-backed peace plan, reported in the Israeli

newspaper Haaretz, Israel would negotiate an interim settlement with elected Palestinian representatives from the occupied lands.

The PLO would join the talks only in the second stage when a final settlement is being negotiated, Haaretz said in the unattributed report. The PLO has insisted up to now on being involved in every stage of negotiations.

"The link between the two stages is an American promise to the PLO in the first stage that it will be included in the second stage," Yossi Sarid of the Citizens Rights Movement said on Israel Radio.

"This has been accepted by the PLO, according to my knowledge," said Sarid, who recently attended a symposium on the

Middle East attended by PLO representatives.

Sarid said his party proposed a similar plan recently in Israel's parliament.

No such plan has been announced in Washington, but Secretary of State James A. Baker III said Tuesday that the United States felt it would be a "major mistake" to rule out eventual Israeli-PLO talks if they could lead to Middle East peace.

Baker also said the United States, in its meetings in Tunis, was encouraging the PLO "not to stand in the way of Palestinians in the occupied territories engaging in a dialogue with Israel."

A confidant of Shamir, meanwhile, hinted that the Israeli leader will propose elections in the occupied lands as part of his peace agenda.

Abu Sherif: U.S. troops could replace Israel in territories

TUNIS (R) — An adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat has said the PLO would accept the replacement of Israeli soldiers by U.S. troops in the occupied territories as an interim measure.

"We would accept U.S. troops to take the place of Israeli troops. The moment there are no Israeli troops in the territories, the uprising would stop," Bassam Abu Sherif said.

Speaking on the eve of talks Wednesday between the United States and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Abu Sherif said the PLO would accept U.S. and Soviet sponsorship of peace talks.

Abu Sherif, whose statements have often caused controversy in PLO circles, told a group of reporters that as soon as Israel accepted the idea of a Palestinian state, the forum for negotiating a settlement would cease to be important.

"If the United States and the Soviet could guarantee the results, the PLO would accept it... If both sides accept a two-state solution, then all things are open and the form (of negotiations) becomes unimportant," he said.

The PLO has previously insisted on a U.N.-sponsored conference attended by the five members of the U.N. Security Council and all the parties to the Middle East conflict.

The dispute over the form of negotiations dominated the first session of the PLO-American dialogue last December. The meeting Wednesday is the second since Washington agreed to talks and the first since the Bush administration took office.

Abu Sherif said the PLO's principal aim in the dialogue was to persuade the United States, and indirectly Israel, that a Palestinian state would not destabilise the Middle East.

"We want the United States to realise that a Palestinian state will be a factor of stability, not instability. This is the only point we want to establish and we have all the logical and factual ammunition to support that," he said.

Asked how the PLO would respond to any U.S. request to tone down the intifada (uprising) in the occupied territories, he said the intifada would subside only when Israeli troops withdrew.

The PLO has previously proposed that United Nations troops, or possibly a European multinational force, should move into the West Bank and Gaza Strip for a transitional period.

Abu Sherif said that then "we would have elections for our people, then the Americans and the Soviets and others if they wanted will provide the auspices for the final settlement."

He said Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze had proposed U.S.-Soviet sponsorship of peace talks to Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens in Cairo last month but Arens rejected it because Moscow linked it with PLO participation.

The idea was designed to circumvent Israeli objections to the U.N.-sponsored conference, where the Israelis fear they would be heavily outnumbered by hostile Arabs and Europeans.

Abu Sherif said his idea of U.S.-Soviet auspices was not a radical change and it did not mean that the PLO would accept a unilateral peace which ignored the interests of Syria and Lebanon, parts of which are also under occupation.

3 more transplant operations performed at medical centre

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN (J.T.) — A team of Jordanian surgeons, led by Dr. Daoud Hanania, performed yet one more heart transplant operation at Al Hussein Medical Centre and the recipient was reported to be progressing well and in good condition.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that the donor was Father William Jamal Al Ya'qoub, a 38-year-old Roman Catholic priest who had suffered a stroke two weeks ago while conducting his duty in Karak in southern

Jordan and died Tuesday at the Al Hussein Medical Centre.

The recipient was 50-year-old Jamal Jamil Hussein Sumadi who had been in critical condition before receiving the new heart, according to hospital sources.

The late priest's family also donated the lungs and the kidneys of the deceased to be used to save the lives of other patients.

According to Petra, Hanania and his team performed two other transplant operations during which 40-year-old Marwan Abdul Karim Qutaib and 35-year-old Ibrahim Issa Dadouj received a kidney each. The three recipients were reported by the hospital to be in good condition.

The priest was buried in his hometown in Madaba Wednesday, some 30 kilometres south of Amman.

Several heart transplant operations have been performed by Hanania and his team in Jordan since 1985.

The first ever heart transplant operation in the Middle East and the Arab World was carried out by Hanania in August 1985. The first heart recipient, Mohammad Khalil is still alive and doing well.



Dr. Daoud Hanania

Waldheim in Cyprus

NICOSIA (R) — Austrian President Kurt Waldheim arrived in Cyprus Wednesday where he will hold talks with President George Vassiliou and meet Austrian U.N. troops on the divided island. The Cyprus News Agency said Waldheim, who arrived from a visit to the United Arab Emirates, would discuss the political situation in Cyprus with Vassiliou. Waldheim visited Cyprus in the late 1970s as U.N. Secretary General for the signing of two high-level agreements on reunifying the island, divided since a Turkish invasion in 1974 which was sparked by an Athens-backed coup in Nicosia. Vassiliou is holding U.N.-brokered talks with Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denkash on reunification, but progress has been slow. Before leaving Thursday Waldheim will visit Austrians among the 2,100-strong U.N. force patrolling the green line buffer-zone and will lay a wreath at a memorial to three Austrian soldiers killed in the 1974 fighting. Waldheim said in the UAE that Austria would retain its neutrality if it was admitted to the European Community. "I would like to stress that Austria's priority is neutrality and it would like to continue playing its role as a bridge between East and West," he told reporters.

King cables good wishes to Pakistan

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday sent a cable of good wishes to Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan on his country's National Day.

In his cable, the King expressed Jordan's desire to bolster brotherly relations with the people of Pakistan and wished the president continued health and happiness and further prosperity and progress for the Pakistani people.

PLO, U.S. discuss substantial issues

CARTHAGE, Tunisia (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the United States held their first substantive talks Wednesday but apparently failed to agree on priorities.

The head of the U.S. delegation, Ambassador Robert Pelletreau, told reporters after the 4½-hour session in Carthage that the meeting concentrated on practical steps to reduce tension in the occupied territories.

But Yasser Abed Rabbo, who led the three-man PLO team, said:

"Many ideas and proposals are being put forward these days and the view of the PLO is that peripheral and detailed issues can be discussed in negotiations within the international peace conference."

The PLO wanted Washington to fully recognise the group and give its backing to an independent Palestinian state and self-determination for the Palestinian people, he added.

Israel has rejected the international conference idea and Pelletreau repeated the U.S. position that the best forum would be direct negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians.

The United States was looking to the meeting Wednesday, the first since the Bush administration took office in January, for signs that the PLO had changed its position on direct talks.

Abed Rabbo, a PLO Executive Committee member, said an international conference was the only appropriate framework for a final settlement but added that bilateral meetings between the PLO and Israel could take place as part of preparations.

Other PLO leaders have said the preliminary talks could deal with all the issues and the conference need only provide international guarantees.

"I did not talk about bilateral negotiations at all," Abed Rabbo said. "I said that in preparing for the international conference... There could be bilateral meetings between the parties concerned."

Neither side gave any details of U.S. proposals for reducing tension in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, where Palestinians have been in revolt since December 1987, but Pelletreau said the aim was direct negotiations.

"The immediate objective is to create a political environment in which productive negotiations between Palestinians and Israelis can be sustained," he added.

A U.S. embassy source said earlier that Washington would not ask the PLO to call off the intifada (uprising), which the PLO sees as its main weapon to put pressure on Israel.

"The intifada of the Palestinian people... will continue until it extracts independence and enables the Palestinian state to practice sovereignty," Abed Rabbo said.

The PLO declared an independent state last November but the United States says such a state would not help stability in the Middle East.

Pelletreau referred indirectly to Palestinian raids from South Lebanon, saying the meeting discussed whether events since the first U.S.-PLO contact on Dec. 16 helped or hindered "an atmosphere conducive to negotiation."

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat made the pledge in Geneva last December, leading Washington to drop the boycott

Turkey treads lightly with Iran over scarf

ANKARA (R) — Turkey is treading warily with neighbouring Iran over its objections to a ban on Islamic headscarves at Turkish universities and believes further problems can be avoided, official sources said Wednesday.

"Our relations have their ups and downs every now and then, stemming from deeply rooted suspicions. But I don't think the headscarf issue will get more serious," one source said.

Mainly Muslim but secular Turkey last week complained to Iran over its objections to a ban on Islamic headscarves at Turkish universities and believes further problems can be avoided, official sources said Wednesday.

Women students demonstrated against the ban in Tehran and more than 150 Iranian parliamentarians denounced the ruling enforced by Turkey's constitutional court. They called for a review of ties with Ankara.

In a low-key response, Turkish parliamentary speaker Yildirim Akbulut said he regretted that an internal Turkish matter had been brought up in the Iranian Parliament.

"Iran always wants the upper hand. If someone does something it dislikes, it tries to escalate the process," a senior Foreign Ministry source said.

"We are two regimes with different ideologies. They (the Iranians) have their own philosophy and revolution and want to export their revolution," he added.

The court, in banning headscarves on campuses, upheld an appeal against a parliamentary bill by President Kenan Evren.

Evren, as a general, led military rule in 1980-83 which quelled extremist political violence that claimed more than 5,000 lives and put an end to calls for an Islamic state in Turkey.

North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)-member Turkey has always been circumspect in dealings with revolutionary Iran and was neutral in the Iran-Iraq war. It takes 80 per cent of its oil imports from the two countries and is seeking reconstruction contracts in war-shattered areas.

Press slams Shamir denial of PLO report

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli press and parliamentary opposition Wednesday accused Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir of lying in his denial that an intelligence report said Israel had no choice but to negotiate with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"The prime minister lied yesterday when he denied the existence of the intelligence report on the PLO," charged Yossi Sarid of the opposition Citizens' Rights Movement.

Sarid, a member of parliament's Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee, said: "the evaluation of the intelligence services exists and speaks clearly of the moderation of the PLO and its joining of the compromise camp in the Arab world."

"It also speaks of the complete control of the PLO in the (occupied) territories and says only Israeli negotiations with the PLO are likely to calm the uprising."

The reported findings run counter to Shamir's policy of refusing to talk to the PLO and to his view that the Tunk-based group remains a terrorist organisation bent on Israel's destruction.

At a news conference Tuesday, Shamir flatly denied published reports of the annual national intelligence estimate, which was presented to the inner cabinet last week by the head of military intelligence, Major-General Amnon Shahak.

"All was a lie, all included in this information was a lie," Shamir said. Vice-Premier Shimon Peres, sitting beside him, pointedly avoided denying the reports.

In a carefully-worded statement, the Defence Ministry said the intelligence services made assessments, not recommendations. A defence source told Reuters that parts of the report had been leaked selectively, but he did not dispute the contents.

Children lead the intifada

By Mary Sedor
Associated Press

TAMOUN, Occupied West Bank — Whenever seven-year-old Seif Hashim spots Israeli troops approaching this West Bank village, he grabs a rock, pulls a checkered Arab keffiyeh over his face and runs into the street shouting, "the army's coming."

Seif and his grade-school friends belong to the "Palestinian Cubs," a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)-linked group that sets up barricades and throws stones at soldiers in the narrow alleyways of this village 110 kilometres north of Jerusalem.

"My job is to get the soldiers if they come into the village," explained Seif, his high blue eyes flashing. "There are about 45 kids in my gang. Some are older than me — they're eight."

Leaning back in his chair, Seif added in a high-pitched voice, "I want to be a PLO guerrilla when I grow up. Or a dentist."

Increasingly, Palestinian children — some as young as five and six — are at the forefront of violent clashes with troops in the occupied territories. The death toll of over 400 in the 15-month-old uprising includes 61 children age 16 and younger, and casualties among youngsters are on the increase, according to U.N. figures.

One reason for the involvement of younger and younger children is that many of the older youths who spearheaded protests are in jail or in hiding from Israeli security forces.

A different equation

The phenomenon has prompted charges, from Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin that Palestinians are putting children in the front lines to win international sympathy and portray Israeli troops as ruthless.

"This is the major problem Israel faces... Palestinian protesters surrounding themselves with kids and women at the front," Rabin recently told visiting U.S. Jewish leaders.

He said, "clashes with protesters make up 90 per cent of the violent incidents in the West Bank and Gaza Strip."

"And 60 per cent of these involve children from the age of six to 14 or 15," Rabin said.

Children have participated alongside adults and older youths in protests since the start of the Palestinian revolt. But children are taking on Israeli troops alone more and more.

"The soldiers are now facing situations where the only targets are young kids," said an international relief worker who declined to be identified. "That has changed the equation of the conflict."

According to U.N. figures in the first six months of the uprising, 65 children age 15 or under were shot in the occupied Gaza Strip. By the second six months, the number of young shooting victims had increased nearly five-fold to 307, including 21 fatalities.

In January, 61 of the 129 shooting casualties in Gaza were 15 or younger, according to the Arab-run Human Rights Information Centre in Arab Jerusalem. Three died.

The centre's Jan Ahu Shahr estimated hundreds of under-16 youths had been detained during the uprising, but said less than 100 are being held now. Army spokesmen stressed that no one under 12 could be jailed.

In Tamoun, Seif and about 400 boys ages five to 12 belong to the "Cubs," which has no relation to non-violent Scout groups. Each week, the children participate in anti-occupation marches, broadcast nationalist slogans through megaphones and carrying outlawed Palestinian flags and pictures of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat through village streets.

Children are organised by uprising leaders well aware of the propaganda value provided by youths facing heavily armed soldiers.

"We are teaching these kids to be active resistors," said Shehadeh Gharyaybeh, 30, a youth organiser. "The personality of the child is formed in the early years. These children will be stronger than us. They are the PLO's plan for continuing the struggle."

"Also punishing children is a sensitive issue for the Israeli army. We know that and it is something we use," he added.

In some cases children join in protests over objections from parents. During the uprising, some Palestinian children have lost respect for their parents, whom they criticise for not fighting the Israeli occupation themselves.

But Gharyaybeh said recently that more parents have been allowing or even urging children to protest in support of the uprising.

"There is a unique opportunity to organise children because parents are encouraging their children to be active," he said.

Shafiq Mohammed Yusef, mother of an 11-year-old daughter wounded by army gunfire last November, said she encouraged her daughter.

"I throw stones, too," she said. "I want my daughter and her friends to throw stones."

Two boys, ages nine and 16, have been killed in Tamoun during the uprising, and 13 children have been wounded. The youngest shooting victim was Ziad Omar Sharat, seven, a member of Seif's Cubs Group who was wounded in the arm last November.

"The marches are nice, but I prefer clashing with soldiers," said Ziad Omar Mohammad Sharat, 13, Ziad's brother. "I'm not afraid of soldiers. They have weapons, and we have weapons. Our weapons are firebombs and stones."

Shafiq Masalha, a clinical psychologist at Bir Zeit University in the West Bank said the children were not fully aware of the dangers they faced.

"These children cannot really imagine themselves being injured or killed," he said in an interview. "They don't calculate the risk in advance. They don't really understand the risks."

Seif disagrees. He said he knows a what martyr is:

"Being a martyr means that I was attacking the army with stones and I was hit by a bullet. My family could not get me to the hospital in time because the army blocked the road. So I died on the road. Then the other boys had a march in the village for me. That's a martyr," he said.

"Afterward, you go to paradise."

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

'U.S. racist in Mideast'

WASHINGTON (R) — The head of an Arab American lobby group Tuesday accused the United States of a "racist" toward Palestinians which he said threatened peace efforts in the Middle East. George Moses, president of the National Association of Arab Americans (NAAA), said that for decades U.S. policy toward Palestinians had been based on distrust. The United States must learn to trust Palestinians in order to reach a viable solution to the Middle East conflict, he said.

"There seems to have been in our policy construct an inordinate suspicion of Palestinians bordering on the racist," Moses said in a speech to the National Press Club. He accused the United States of a double standard in dealing with the two main protagonists in the dispute. "The theory here seems to be... when Israeli pronouncements are made they are reliable policy, but when the Palestinians speak it's subterfuge," he said.

UNRWA to give education in West Bank

VIENNA (AP) — A U.N. agency that offers relief to Palestinian refugees said in a statement released Tuesday it was seeking to provide basic education in the occupied West Bank where 90 of the region's 98 schools are closed. According to the statement issued at the Vienna headquarters of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), the interim measures to provide education are scheduled to begin March 25. They are to include arranging for agency teachers to visit pupils in refugee camps or where they live to distribute educational materials and give them guidance. The agency's commissioner general, Giorgio Giacomelli, was quoted as saying he feared many older children were losing their basic skills and some younger children had not yet attended school due to extended school closures in the region. According to the statement 39,275 pupils are affected by the school closures, which are to last at least until April 19. The agency provides health care, education and welfare services to refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria as well as the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

'Little progress in freeing hostages'

BRUSSELS (R) — Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans said he had made little headway in talks in Syria on securing the release of Belgian hostages believed held in Lebanon. Tindemans told reporters Tuesday that Syrian help in freeing the hostages remained vital. But he added: "I am convinced that they (the Syrians) do not have any precise information." Tindemans said Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara had briefed him on the civil war in Lebanon, where Syria wields great influence among some factions. But he had been unable to provide any concrete information about either the disappearance of Jan Cools, a doctor, or the kidnapping of five members of a Belgian family. Cools, who was working for a Norwegian aid organisation, went missing last May. He was last seen leaving Rashidiyeh Palestinian refugee camp south of Beirut.

Danish minister visits Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — Danish Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen arrived in Israel Tuesday for a 24-hour visit ahead of a meeting of the Nordic Council of Foreign Ministers next week. "Some of my Nordic colleagues have recently met the leader of the PLO, (Palestine Liberation Organisation)," Ellemann-Jensen, chairman of the council, told reporters at Ben Gurion airport. "Therefore, it is important for us to speak to the government of Israel because we want to maintain close contact with all sides in the Middle East and make sure that Israel does not get the impression we have forgotten them." Ellemann-Jensen will meet Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister Moshe Arens Wednesday.

Iraq cancels war-time rules

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq, relaxing gradually after its eight-year war with Iran, abolished a series of emergency regulation Wednesday. State employees can no longer be jailed for six months for disobeying superiors. Enforcement of price controls, under which merchants could be jailed for 15 years and have their property confiscated, was abolished. The ruling Revolutionary Command Council issued decrees abolishing dozens of measures which it said "were put into force due to the circumstances of the war... and were limiting the freedom of citizens."

Iran slams ICAO

NICOSIA (R) — Iran has complained to the U.N. aviation authority over its failure to denounce the United States for shooting down an Iranian Airbus in July, killing all 290 people aboard. Iran's official news agency (IRNA) said Wednesday that Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati told the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) that an ICAO statement on the attack was contrary to its own regulations. The ICAO statement Friday said the attack was a tragic incident resulting from "events and errors in identification of the aircraft." The statement was "opposite to the (ICAO's) past records in similar cases and against international expectations," Velayati said in a message to the ICAO secretary-general. "The (ICAO) is undoubtedly responsible for its consequences," IRNA, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Velayati as saying. It gave no details.

King Fahd to visit Iraq, Egypt

RIYADH (AP) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia will visit Iraq and Egypt at the weekend, official sources reported Wednesday. The sources, who spoke on condition they not be named, said Fahd will fly to Iraq Saturday and travel on to Egypt the following day. They said his talks will focus mainly on the Middle East peace process and the Palestinian problem. The stalled U.N.-sponsored peace negotiations between Iran and Iraq and the civil war in Lebanon also will figure in the king's talks in Baghdad and Cairo.

The British Council **أسبوع التعليم العالي البريطاني**

BRITISH HIGHER EDUCATION WEEK

17 - 24 March 1989

ITINERARY

Sat JORDAN UNIVERSITY
18

Sun YARMOUK UNIVERSITY
19

Mon JORDAN UNIVERSITY OF
20 SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Tues MU'TAH UNIVERSITY
21

Thurs BRITISH COUNCIL
23 Open Day (2 - 7 p.m.)

Representatives from the following institutions will be available to answer questions:

- University of Aberdeen
- Bolton Institute of Higher Education
- University of Glasgow
- University of Kent
- University of Nottingham
- Trent Polytechnic

For further information, please contact the Public Relations Office or the Deanship of Student Affairs at each University.

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Queen Noor receives Bulgarian message

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday received at Al Nadwa Palace the wife of the Bulgarian Minister of Culture, Science and Education, Mrs. Maria Yordanova, who conveyed a message to Her Majesty from Mr. Vladimir Zhivkov, the son of the president of the Republic of Bulgaria.

The message dealt with ways to develop cooperation between the Noor Al Hussein Foundation and the Lyudmila Zhivkova International Foundation.

The Lyudmila Zhivkova International Foundation was founded in 1982 with the aim of promoting peace world-wide and providing the children of future generation with means of development through proper education.

Mr. Zhivkov, who is the president of the foundation, is also the general director of the Banner of Peace Centre and the first deputy minister of culture, science and education.

The foundation was founded by representatives of over 30 countries which include the United States, Canada, France, Italy and Holland as well as other countries in Africa, the Far East, Latin America in addition to two Arab countries.

The audience was attended by the Ambassador of Bulgaria in Amman, Yantcho Demirev.

OICC town planning conference

Function matters, not style — Koshak

By Najwa Najjar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Islamic planning of cities, according to Abdul Kadir Koshak, Secretary General of the Organisation of Islamic Capitals and Cities (OICC), should "concentrate on function, not on shape... which is not Islamic."

The architecture and architectural features found throughout the Islamic World, he says, are the products of different Muslim societies at different periods of the Islamic religion, and thus cannot be expected to be identical.

Nevertheless, he continued, planning in Islamic cities was based on the Holy Koran and the hadith and so had universal and timeless aspects to it.

One of these was the location of Mecca in Saudi Arabia. "Mecca should be kept in mind because Muslims pray five times a day," he said. This will affect the design of the house and the orientation of the rooms.

Koshak also noted Islamic regulations which "prohibit" foreigners from looking inside the house. "Therefore care should be taken that the entrance of the house does not 'directly open' onto the road, and that windows, especially those at ground level, should be 'high' and 'isolated'."

likewise, Islam enters into

consideration when building elevators. Koshak explained that since Islam prohibits two strangers of different sexes being in the same room together alone, elevators pose a potential difficulty. "One woman and one man who do not know each other (may be in the elevator together). This is not good and is not allowed by Islam."

But solutions could be found, for example, in the construction of open elevators of glass "so that they could be seen... it would mean no complete privacy inside (the elevator)."

On the city-wide level, planners should site mosques so as to face Mecca. This in turn will affect the orientation of streets, said Koshak, adding that "(planners) will have to think in the Islamic way."

During the four-day conference, delegates examined the studies presented on the fundamentals of architecture and town planning throughout the ages of Islam. The conference adopted recommendations on the study and asked the OICC member cities to conduct similar studies.

The OICC, established in 1980, was thought a necessary step in joining together all the municipalities in Islamic countries to consider the mutual problems they face, and to benefit from each other's experience.

'Intifada causes split in Jewish American community'

By Rania Atalla
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The 16-month-old Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories has led to an erosion in the unity that existed among American Jews and many are now reexamining what "loyalty to Israel" really means, according to Dr. Laurie Brand, deputy director of the Washington-based Institute of Palestine Studies.

"Many Jewish Americans, who previously presented a monolithic opinion, are now saying 'enough is enough' and are realising that loyalty to Israel no longer implies support of everything that Israel does," Brand said in a lecture at the American Centre Tuesday.

According to Brand, since the Palestinian intifada began in December 1987, a new generation of American Jews has emerged, questioning what the "security of Israel" really means, and whether the West Bank and Gaza Strip are crucial for the state.

Brand points out that even though this "reexamination" phenomenon may not be deep rooted, it is still a beginning. "It may represent a new more realistic and less biased approach to the Palestinian people," she said, "but it is difficult to predict where it will go. There is still a lot of sympathy for Israel."

Brand stressed, however, that support for Israel still holds, even from the very same American Jews who are now voicing dissatisfaction with Israeli policy. Their "Zionist credentials," as she refers to them, were never in question. Their dissatisfaction with Israeli measures is not so much based on concern for Palestinians as it is on concern over what she measures might do to the image of Israel and to the "moral" character of the state, she said.

Be that as it may, the Jewish community is an important political group in the U.S., and Brand believes that this latest development is significant for the effect it may have in leading the U.S. administration to take positive steps towards a settlement of the Palestinian problem.

In December last year, the U.S. lifted a 13-year-old ban on dialogue with the Palestine Li-

beration Organisation (PLO), and the second round of talks between the two sides was held in Tunis Wednesday. Brand believes that pressure on the U.S. by its European allies, as well as pressure by the Soviet Union on the PLO to recognise Israel's right to exist have led to the reopening of U.S.-PLO dialogue.

Political discourse in the U.S.

According to Brand, the intifada has also led to an unprecedented opening up in the realm of political discourse among the American public at large which has, in turn, raised the ceiling of "acceptable discussion" about the Palestinian cause. As Brand put it, Americans can now publish their opinion "without being attacked for it."

The "breaking of the silence" on the Palestinian issue has seen the word "Palestine" now appearing in the newspapers," she said. "Saying the word PLO no longer puts you in the 'terrorist' and 'radical' category."

Granted, she says, the American people as such will not be able to establish a state for the Palestinian people, but were it not for the intifada the American public would not even be discussing the issues. And from that situation, she asserts, there is no going back.

The Jesse Jackson election campaign is, according to Brand, the clearest example of how the intifada affected U.S. domestic politics. For the first time, a major candidate spoke of the Palestinian right to self-determination, and despite that he was able to achieve widespread acceptance among Americans. As a result, Brand asserted, "proponents of Palestinian self-determination acquired a legitimacy which they never had before."

Brand sums up the effect which the uprising had on the U.S. as follows: "The intifada has sent a message which 25 years of armed struggle was not able to convey to the U.S. A people without a cause have changed to real people, with a real identity and a serious issue that needs to be addressed."

Khasawneh receives UNESCO official

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Cooperation between Jordan and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) were discussed at a meeting here Wednesday between Minister of Information Hani Khasawneh and UNESCO assistant director for educational affairs.

The UNESCO official said that the organisation was studying means of providing assistance to

Jordan in accordance with the minister of information's request. He also conveyed a request to the minister that Jordan be involved in the organisation's campaign on the eradication of illiteracy which will be launched in the coming year.

The UNESCO official later visited the University of Jordan and held a meeting with its President Abdul Salam Al Majali.

RSS to supervise quality of pipes

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) has signed a contract with the Jordan Pipes Manufacturing Company to ensure that materials used by the company in the manufacture of pipes in Jordan correspond to internationally-accepted specifications and standards.

An RSS spokesman said that RSS experts will be examining the types of pipes and the primary materials used in their manufacture to ensure good quality and abundance by the required specifications.

Samples of the company's pipes and primary materials will be sent to the RSS on a regular basis to be tested by specialists at

the RSS's mechanical engineering department which normally conducts such tests and analysis on various elements and components used in industry.

The company's pipes are currently being used in water and irrigation networks, central heating systems, sewerage networks and in the manufacture of solar heaters.

The RSS's mechanical engineering department provides technical and consultancy services and helps to solve problems pertaining to industry in general. The agreement was signed by RSS President Jawad Anani and the company's Director General Khaled Kanaan.

New Met. centre opens Thursday

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The newly established National Meteorological Centre will be inaugurated in Amman Thursday and officials said the new facilities will provide accurate information about the weather conditions in Jordan.

A spokesman for the Meteorology Department here said that JD 500,000 were spent on the new centre which would provide weather forecasts accurately for at least a week in advance.

The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) has provided nearly \$200,000 in the form of equipment and machines for the new centre which is linked to

specialised weather channels via satellites that give accurate and speedy information about the weather conditions, according to the Met. Department Director Ali Abanda.

Abanda said staff and specialists from his department have been trained in such operations prior to the opening of the centre which he said is linked with the central meteorological station in Offenbach, West Germany.

He said that the annual cost of employing a direct satellite channel linking Jordan with the West German centre is about JD 50,000.

Mother's Day celebrated

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Zein Al Sharaf Wednesday attended the Mothers' Day celebration held at Um Al Hussein Orphanage at Al Hussein Youth City. The Queen was accompanied by Her Royal Highness Princess Basma. Upon arrival the Queen was received by Their Royal Highnesses the Princesses, ladies of the society, and the wives of the members of the Arab and foreign diplomatic corps accredited to Jordan. Speeches were delivered congratulating the Queen on



Her Majesty Queen Zein the anniversary of Mothers' Day.

Austrian company to prospect for oil in southeast

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Austrian National Oil Company Wednesday signed an agreement with the Natural Resources Authority (NRA) to prospect for oil in the Kingdom within an area of 5,500 square kilometres located south-east of Sirhan district in eastern Jordan.

Under the terms of the agreement signed by NRA Director General Kamal Jreissat and the Austrian company's international operations manager, the company is expected to conduct exploration for oil for a period of 18 months. In the course of its operations the Austrian company will conduct seismicological surveys along a 700-kilometre stretch of land where the NRA specialists had carried out earlier geological, geophysical and geochemical tests to determine the nature of rocks and oil prospects.

According to the agreement, the Austrian company was expected to spend some \$2 million on its oil exploration operations in which NRA teams of experts will participate.

Last December the NRA and the Petro Canada International Assistance Corporation (PCIAC) signed an agreement to extend an existing accord on hydrocarbon

exploration in Jordan. The extension will permit PCIAC to continue seismic acquisition and processing programmes in the same Sirhan region as well as the northern highlands.

The exploration process was expected to go on throughout 1989, according to a NRA-PCIAC agreement.

In the past five years Jordan signed several agreements with U.S. companies Hund and Amoco and Petrofina of Belgium to conduct oil prospect in the Kingdom.

In the meantime the NRA announced it was pursuing a gas exploration at Al Rishah, 150 kilometres east of Amman following the finding of considerable amounts of gas in that region in the past two years. Liquefied natural gas produced at Rishah fields near the Iraqi border comes out at the rate of 2,000 barrels a day according to earlier interviews with NRA officials but they said studies indicate that the area would be developed to increase its gas production for industrial purposes.

Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khatib announced last April that Jordan was using gas from Al Rishah fields for power generation.

Seminar reviews central regions' development plan

ZARQA (Petra) — A seminar to assess the development process in the central governorates of Amman, Zarqa and Balqa was held here Wednesday under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

A total of six sectoral committees involved in the discussions reviewed working papers dealing with the development of the three governorates in agriculture, tourism, environment, industry, local councils' services and social development.

The meeting was called to follow up the implementation of resolutions and recommendations taken by a general conference held in Amman last September. According to an official from the Ministry of Planning the participants who represent the councils as well as the committees will work out an executive programme outlining steps and measures to be taken in the implementation of the development schemes.

Minister of Interior Rajai Dajani who deputised for Prince Hassan at the meeting delivered an address providing ideas about the committee's work and laying emphasis on specific principles that should be regarded while implementing the schemes. The minister stressed the need for the establishment of a central data bank providing information about development processes going

on in the four development regions of the Kingdom.

Minister of Planning Taher Kanaan, who also addressed the meeting, described the discussions as part of the ongoing dialogue on the socio-economic process in the Kingdom. He said that under the present circumstances the development councils in all regions are called on to mobilise all efforts and private and public sector's contributions towards bolstering the national economy. The present circumstances, he added made it imperative on the government to adopt austerity measures so as to cut down on spending and imports and increase exports of national products with the aim of boosting economic growth.

The Zarqa, Balqa and Amman governorates together form the central development region in the Kingdom and hold the majority of population. According to Ministry of Planning officials, nearly 65 per cent of the total population now lives in the central region which also contains most of the country's economic projects.

Mali's ambassador endorsed

ACC gets 8m ECUs European loan

AMMAN (Petra) — An eight million European Currency Unit (ECU) loan offered to Jordan by the European Investment Bank will be used by the Agriculture Credit Corporation (ACC), the council of ministers decided Wednesday. The loan is to finance a number of ACC projects.

The council of ministers decided that Jordan will take part in the board meeting of the Arab Union of Producers, Transporters and Distributors of Electricity, due to open in Bahrain Sunday. The meeting will discuss the union's general plans. The director general of the Jordan Electricity Authority will represent Jordan at the meeting.

The council of ministers also approved of Mali's nomination of Mr. Ahmad Bakawi as its own resident ambassador to Jordan.

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WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * An art exhibition by Egyptian artist 'Adi Rizqallah at Al Wasiti Gallery.
- * An art exhibition by seven Jordanian artists at the Art Gallery of Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation — 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., 3 - 6 p.m.
- * An art exhibition by Ahmad Ismail displaying paintings on Maqamat Al Hariri and Jordanian landscapes at the Gallery, Hotel Jordan Intercontinental — 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
- * An exhibition of posters on the French Revolution at the French Cultural Centre.
- * An exhibition of paintings by Mohammad Al Jalous at Alia Art Gallery.
- * An art exhibition by Moroccan artist Al Hashemi Izza at the Gallery, Jabal Laweibdeh.
- * A graphic art exhibition displaying works by German artists Liebermann, Slevogt and Corinth at the Yarmouk University.
- * The Amman computer exhibition at the King Abdullah Complex — 10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- * An art exhibition displaying paintings by children at the Housing Bank Complex.
- * An art exhibition by Yusra Abu Ghazaleh at Philadelphia Hall, Holiday Inn.
- * A photography exhibition displaying photos depicting Jordan's historical and touristic sites at the University of Jordan.
- * An exhibition of Jordanian national heritage displaying Jordanian-made carpets and dresses of Jordanian rural women at the University of Jordan.

FILMS

- * A feature film entitled "The African Queen" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.
- * An Italian film entitled "Non c'è fuoco senza fumo" at Haya Arts Centre — 7:30 p.m.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

جوردين تايمز يومية عربية سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times Advertising Department.

At 44, Arab League requires face-lift

THE Arab League's 44th anniversary which fell on Wednesday should have been an occasion to spell out operational ideas on how to invigorate this Arab organisation. That the League as presently constituted leaves much to be desired is an understatement. Unfortunately the Arab League has been left by its member states to atrophy the years to the point that has rendered it less relevant than ever in the conduct of inter-Arab relations. In more than one way, this benign neglect of the Arab League has rendered it impotent in dealing not only with crises and conflicts between the Arab World and foreign powers but also in dealing with inter-Arab disputes.

In this vein, the Arab League submits, and rightly so, that the League is what the Arab states would want it to be, nothing more and nothing else. Some Arab states would demur and argue that over and above the proposition that the Arab League is an accurate reflection of what its members want it to be, the League itself can do a lot more to become more potent and relevant in dealing with issues affecting the Arab countries and their peoples. It has been suggested many times in this context that even under the prevailing conditions, the Arab League has the potential to become much more dynamic in addressing subjects affecting the Arab World. That is why one would have thought that an occasion like the 44th anniversary of the League would have been a propitious occasion to announce new measures that would render the Arab League more forceful and meaningful in its ways within and without the Arab member states.

For example, the Arab League can save much needed funds by closing down several of its offices in capitals where there is ample presence of Arab embassies. It is a common knowledge that where there are sufficient number of Arab diplomats, there is really no need for an Arab League secretariat to organise meetings between them. Its presence in such capitals is truly redundant. This has been amply proven in capitals like Ankara where the Arab diplomatic community was able to conduct its inter-Arab functions and diplomatic missions just as well without the benefit of an Arab League bureaucracy. The Arab League would be better advised to spend its meager resources in other avenues where it stands to reap much more tangible results. The main Arab League secretariat in Tunis can use new blood in the form of proficient Arab experts in different fields in order to render the head office more efficient and dynamic. The Arab World does not need just an Arab civil servants force which is not sufficiently motivated or versed in matters that are of great interest to the Arab World. There must be, therefore, more turn over in senior personnel to allow opportunities for younger people with new perspectives and ideas. Otherwise the Arab League would become a rather fossilised creature geared only to serve fossilised ideas and perspectives.

To be sure there are many other avenues open to the Arab League to rectify its course and amend its ways. The best way is to form an inter-Arab committee of experts to deal with this task of revamping the Arab League from head to toe. The 44th anniversary of the Arab League could have been just the occasion to announce the formation of such a committee.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

WASHINGTON'S moves to find a settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict is discussed in Al Ra'i Arabic daily newspaper's editorial Wednesday. The paper said everyone is optimistic over the United States' commencement of efforts to deal with the problem by contacting Jordan, Egypt and Israel, because such contacts mean that Washington was oriented towards finding a lasting peace in the Middle East. In May His Majesty King Hussein will visit Washington for talks with President Bush following the latter's contacts with Egypt and Israel, and the King's visit will open up good chances for further discussion of the problem in detail, and new prospects for Washington to offer new ideas towards a solution. The United States, the paper said, has announced that it will hold the meetings to try to bring closer the concerned parties in a bid to create common ground for a settlement. Indeed, the United States shoulders serious responsibilities as a superpower and should take immediate steps towards such a settlement, the paper added. It said that the United States has realised now that Israel is adamant in its position and does not offer any formulas for a lasting settlement; and therefore, Washington is called on to take serious moves and exercise pressure on Israel to accept peace and open the way for an international conference to achieve that goal.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily advocates the case of the Jordan Valley farmers whose crops were damaged by frost in the past three months. Salah Abdul Samad says the farmers suffered real losses due to the wave of frost but were happy later to hear the government announced a decision to compensate them for their loss. Any assistance to the farmers would be a welcome thing since it will help them overcome part of their difficulties and try to honour their commitments by paying their dues to the money-lending institutions and credit banks and interest on the loans, the writer notes. He says the farmers had been awaiting all this time to hear a summons from the Ministry of Agriculture to come forward and collect their compensation, but nothing has been done in this respect so far.

Al Dstour daily tackled the situation in the Lebanese capital Beirut in the wake of the new escalation of fighting between militias on both sides of the green line dividing the city. The paper described the situation as very dangerous since both sides in the conflict are not only exchanging accusations and counter charges but also using artillery shells and rocket fire which is raining down on residential areas, killing innocent people. The paper said that both sides are determined to pursue the fight and cause more and more destruction to Beirut and other areas of the embattled country, leaving the civilian population without food and water and exposing their lives to danger.

10 years of Camp David accords Despite peace, little evidence of normalcy

By Neila Sammakia
The Associated Press

CAIRO — Egypt and Israel have been on speaking terms for a decade, but it's the relationship of neighbours who keep a wary eye on each other.

On maps, Egypt is whole again. Under terms of the peace treaty signed March 26, 1979, the Israelis returned most of the Sinai in 1982, 15 years after it was occupied. They finished the turnover last Wednesday by pulling out of Taba, a tiny beach enclave on the Gulf of Aqaba.

Oil wells of Sinai and the Gulf of Suez, developed under Israeli occupation, pump money into Egypt, some of it from Israeli coffers. The United States, which under President Jimmy Carter sponsored the first peace between Arabs and Jews, is pouring more than \$2 billion annually into Egypt's economy. Even the Arab diplomatic boycott that the treaty sparked has ended except for Libya, Syria and Lebanon.

For the average Egyptian, however, there's little to show for Cairo's cool friendship with Israel except foodstands displaying juicier grapes, redder strawberries and fatter cucumbers.

But there's no talk, at least from those who rule, of going back. "Peace and peace. It is so important to the Israelis and Arabs," President Hosni Mubarak said after the Egyptian flag rose over Taba for the first time in 22 years. "It is worth whatever concession."

He called for mutual flexibility

to solve the remaining central problem, which is the same reason that led to four Arab-Israeli wars: The Palestinian problem.

Butros Ghali, Mubarak's minister of state for foreign affairs, said Taba could be the key.

"Solving the Taba problem peacefully... opens the door to joint action between Egypt and Israel to solve the Palestinian problem," he said.

Egyptian officials want Israel to change its policy, deal with the Palestine Liberation Organisation and give back the occupied Arab territories.

Where Israel is concerned, there's a general feeling of mistrust among Egyptians, bred on the four wars and many years of regarding Israel as the eternal enemy. In an era of the superpower cold war a few years ago, Ghali characterised Egypt's relations with Israel as "cold peace."

Pleats of Israeli tourists visit Egypt, but few Egyptians go the other way mainly because the government discourages travel to Israel.

Egyptians generally sympathise with the Palestinians, particularly since the anti-Israeli uprising began more than 15 months ago in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israel often asks Egypt to implement fully the treaty's provisions designed to promote normalcy through such fields as trade, tourism and cultural exchanges. But experts on both sides say agricultural technology

is about the only field in which cooperation flourishes.

"The advantage of (working with) Israel is that our climatic conditions are similar," said Hany Abdul Nour, a businessman whose company sells irrigation techniques using innovative Israeli expertise.

He said most of his clients are former expatriate workers who have returned from Arab oil states with money to invest.

"They are broad-minded and ready to accept new techniques," Abdul Nour said. "Some people had reservations at the beginning, but after a while their misgivings vanished."

One businessman who has no qualms about using Israeli technology is a former ranking army officer who fought in the 1967 Middle East war, was captured and held for eight months as an Israeli prisoner-of-war.

The officer — he didn't want his name or rank used — grows grapes with Israeli know-how and equipment.

"This has no relation to war," the officer said. "My brother was killed in the war, so my hard feelings should be double, but I still take technology from them."

His family takes a less pragmatic approach. He said his wife "totally refuses" to socialise with her husband's Israeli colleagues.

Four years after then-President Anwar Sadat went to Israel, and two after he signed the peace treaty, Muslim extremists assassinated him in 1981 partly because of his closeness to the enemy.

Sadat's campaign to win over

Egyptians to the idea of peace with Israel included repeated promises of prosperity for a people shackled for years with spending huge amounts on war.

But rising inflation, aggravated by lower oil prices, mismanagement and corruption, has disappointed many Egyptians and dashed much of Sadat's dream, even though it can't be blamed on the treaty.

"I was against the whole peace move," said a young agriculture graduate who identified himself only as Ahmed. "I wasn't fooled that the treaty would bring prosperity. You can see there is no prosperity — quite the contrary."

Israel's dream of smooth relations will be put to the test in Taba. For the first time, Egyptian and Israeli employees will be working together in large numbers at a resort hotel that Egypt bought from its Israeli owner for \$37 million.

"I don't know how it'll be, working with Egypt," cook Alice Zerber said on the day of the Egyptian takeover. "I don't know whether I'll accept taking orders from them."

Egyptian law requires that 90 per cent of a firm's employees must be Egyptian, but it remains uncertain when or how that will be implemented.

About 20 waiters and cooks sent from Cairo arrived at the 326-room hotel only minutes after it became Egyptian and filed neatly into the poolside dining room to take instructions from their Israeli counterparts.

Israelis have mixed feelings about Egypt

By Nicolas B. Tatro
The Associated Press

TEL AVIV — Ten years after signing a treaty with Egypt that ended three decades of war, Israelis have mixed feelings about the stunted peace that has emerged with the largest and most powerful Arab state.

No event since the founding of the Jewish state in 1948 stirred such unabashed euphoria in Israel as the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's dramatic decision to break the taboo on dealing with Israel, starting with his visit to Israel in November 1977.

But there is deep chagrin here that the promise of such peace-making did not lead to other peace treaties with Arab states and that Egypt shunned close ties in trade and tourism.

"Real peace is daily contacts in many fields like we see between European states who a few years ago fought each other like eternal enemies. We are still far from this," Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said recently on an Arabic programme on Israel TV.

According to Israeli statistics, 63,000 Israeli tourists visited Egypt last year, and Israel exported \$6 million in goods to Cairo. But only 100 Egyptians came to Israel last year, while Egyptian exports to the Jewish state reached \$2.5 million to \$3 million, a diplomatic source in Cairo said.

The clearest evidence of the cold peace is the absence of any celebrations in Tel Aviv or Cairo to mark the March 26, 1978 signing of the treaty on the White House lawn.

But the strength of the treaty has been its tough skin. The pact has survived Sadat's 1981 assassination, the killing of seven Israeli tourists and an embassy employee in 1985, and cross-border raids by Palestinians, including one in which three Israelis were killed last year.

Egypt showed no signs of wavering in upholding Sadat's pledge that there would be "no more wars" despite Israel's 1981 annexation of the Golan Heights, the 1982-85 invasion of Lebanon and the ongoing Palestinian uprising that began in December 1987.

After seven years of squabbling, Israel handed back to Egypt the disputed beach resort of Taba earlier this month without the die-hard opposition of Israeli right-wingers who fought the Sinai pullout in 1982.

"Will the treaty last another 10 years? I tell you I don't know, I can't be sure," said Elihu Ben-Elissar, who was Israel's first ambassador to Cairo and is now a parliament member representing the right-wing Likud Bloc.

"But I can assure you that today in Egypt I see no sign of any will to go back to the past situation of war. That's something. In fact, it's immense."

Ezer Weizman, then defence minister for Likud and now science minister for the left-leaning Labour Party, said the biggest disappointment was Israel's failure to follow up, as promised, in finding a solution for the Palestinians.

"I was hoping for a much better situation, especially regarding

the Palestinian problem," said Weizman, who quit the cabinet in protest of the lack of progress in 1980 toward granting Palestinians autonomy.

Peace with Egypt changed Weizman's world view completely. The former pilot and air force commander became one of Israeli leading doves and now advocates talks with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

"It's a pity we lost 10 years, but it is better late than never," said Weizman, who told a small group of reporters recently that he blamed the lack of " gutsy leadership" in Israel for the stalled peace efforts.

From Israel's point of view, the greatest benefit of the treaty was reducing the likelihood of an Arab coalition forming as it did in 1973 to launch a war against Israel.

"There is no war with Egypt, and there's not going to be a war, and the peace from this point of view is a real peace," said Avraham Tamir, a retired army general who negotiated the military aspects of Israel's withdrawal from Sinai.

"The peace with Egypt was an historical achievement because without this peace, we would have passed at least one more war, and there are no winners in these wars," Tamir said in an interview.

The peace treaty allowed Israel to scale down its arms race with the Arab World and reduce the amount of time Israel's soldier-citizens spend in uniform.

Ben-Elissar, a member of parliament's foreign affairs and defence committee, credited the treaty in part for Israel's ability to

trim about \$600 million from the \$4.6-billion defence budget.

But he stressed in an interview that Israelis had not yet been convinced that their war of survival was over.

"Israelis know that Egypt has recognised Israel as a reality, but this doesn't mean Egypt has recognised Israel's right to exist as a nation," he said. "Egyptians did not depart from what the Arab World represents: A total negation of the rights of Jews to live

as an independent sovereign nation."

Ben-Elissar, who was on the negotiating team that produced the treaty with Egypt, said that if warmer relations had evolved, they could have melted the barriers to understanding.

"We are still back in the pre-1977 myths and traumas. This is peace, but it may be seen by some as a tactical peace" in which Egypt signed an agreement only to get back land, he said.

Afghan drug situation worries U.S.

By Susanne M. Schaffer
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. officials are concerned that Afghanistan, already a principal opium producer, could become an even greater source of illicit narcotics in the wake of the Soviet troop withdrawal.

"Afghanistan... worries everyone who is interested in this issue," said Ann Wroblewski, the assistant secretary of state for narcotics affairs.

Wroblewski, in discussing the department's annual narcotics control report, said the problem was likely to be aggravated when the estimated three million to five million Afghan refugees return to their homeland.

In the wake of the destruction caused by the nine-year war against Soviet soldiers, traditional agriculture has been made nearly impossible in many regions.

"As we see refugees moving back into a war-torn country

where there is no strong central government, we see them returning to a fairly easy, quick, profitable means of supporting themselves," Wroblewski said.

"Therefore, the prediction is that output of opium will increase out of Afghanistan, which then leads to a chain reaction of increased heroin moving through Pakistan," she added.

Throughout the opium-producing region that also includes Iran, Burma and Laos, "prospects are not good" for any reduction in the opium trade in the coming year, Wroblewski said.

With some 700 to 800 metric tonnes produced last year, Afghanistan second only to Burma in opium production in southern Asia, the report said.

"Compounding U.S. government frustration at increasing worldwide opium supplies is the fact that about 90 per cent of the world's opium production takes place in areas in which the United States has little or no access — such as Afghanistan, Lebanon,

Powerful S. Korean unions gear up for spring offensive

By Roger Crabb
Reuters

SEOUL — From shipyards to subways, strikes are breaking out in key South Korean industries, and employers and the government predict worse to come as newly powerful trade unions launch a threatened "spring offensive."

Pessimists fear an epidemic of labour unrest could sweep a country only just emerging from decades of strongman rule, where industrial laws and work standards are still among the harshest in the world.

Some even believe such troubles could provoke a full-blown political crisis threatening the survival of the fragile democratic reforms brought in since 1987.

Signs of an impending storm are in the air. President Roh Tae-Woo's government has refused to endorse a more liberal

organised labour. Labour rights have become an ultra-sensitive social issue, with more and more voices raised to charge that the country's robust growth has come at the expense of low pay for workers, long hours and poor working conditions.

A recent international labour office survey found South Koreans still worked an average 54 hours weekly, many more than their industrial competitors.

Trade ministry officials say almost 180 companies were hit by disputes during January and February, at a cost to the country of about \$1.16 billion in domestic production and \$326 million in exports.

They said the stoppages were one major cause of a dramatic recent slump in South Korean export growth in the first two months of 1989.

The other factor in the decline was the stronger won as Seoul bowed to U.S. pressures and continued to revalue its currency, already appreciated more than 25 per cent in 1987-88.

Employers say the continually rising won — which has still not reached a level to satisfy the U.S. government — is reducing their competitive edge in export markets and making it even more difficult for them to meet the higher wage demands of an increasingly unionised workforce.

Companies, used to dealing with the respectful union authorised under the controversial old legislation, are also finding the growth of new "democratic" unions much more difficult to handle.

The giant Hyundai group has seen a crippling dispute drag on for three months at its Ulsan shipyard in the south-east, with output paralysed as workers argue with managers but also amongst themselves.

Deputy Prime Minister Cho Soon last week urged both employers and workers to show restraint.

"We are standing at a crossroads with a choice of heading either to advanced nation status or back to underdevelopment," said Cho, the government's chief economic planner.

he not be identified by name said the United States must wait for a central government to be formed to start any kind of comprehensive drug eradication or cross-substitution programme.

But he took a more positive approach to the post-Soviet era. The Agency for International Development (AID) has been involved in a pilot programme near the city of Jalabad.

"We're pleased with it," he said, claiming a "quite impressive" success with the local farmers and expressing hopes the pilot programme could be used elsewhere once calm is restored.

At present, however, cooperation can only be obtained in certain areas where rebel leaders are in control and sympathetic to such an approach, the official said.

"My sense is, the resistance leaders we work with are exceptionally sensitive to this, aware that it is a domestic issue in the United States," added the official.

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Visite d'une délégation du FMI

Une délégation du Fonds monétaire international (FMI) est arrivée vendredi dernier à Amman afin de négocier les modalités du rachat de la dette extérieure jordanienne. Avec un déficit croissant de sa balance des paiements, qui a atteint 200 millions de dollars en 1988, la Jordanie ne sera probablement pas en mesure d'honorer les 920 millions de dollars de créances qui arrivent à échéance courant 1989. Sa dette extérieure globale est officiellement estimée entre 6,5 et 7 milliards de dollars. Le gouvernement a toutefois affirmé sa détermination à honorer en 1989 le service de la dette extérieure, estimé à 420 millions de dollars. Selon des sources financières, la Jordanie souhaite obtenir du FMI un rachat de la dette à un taux de 150 millions de dollars. En contrepartie, le FMI devrait demander des mesures supplémentaires d'austérité: arrêt des subventions aux produits alimentaires de première nécessité, hausse des tarifs des services publics (pour réduire le déficit budgétaire) et un réajustement du dinar. Le gouvernement entend cependant maintenir ses subventions au pain, au riz, au sucre et au lait, estimées officiellement à plus de 110 millions de dollars pour 1989. Amman a déjà effectué des coupes dans son budget de 1989, en baisse de deux milliards de dollars par rapport à l'an passé. La Jordanie affirme par ailleurs encourager les "projets productifs" et a limité l'importation de produits de luxe et la sortie de devises. (agences)

Jumelages Amman-Islamabad et Dakar-Jérusalem

Les capitales jordanienne et pakistanaise ont été déclarées villes jumelées le 20 mars en marge des travaux du cinquième congrès de l'Organisation des capitales et villes islamiques réuni à Amman. L'accord signé par MM. Abdel Raouf Al-Rawabdeh et Mazhar Radi, respectivement maires d'Amman et d'Islamabad, a notamment pour objectif de renforcer la coopération culturelle et commerciale entre les deux cités. Plus politique, le jumelage scellé entre Dakar et Jérusalem, capitale de l'Etat indépendant de Palestine, concrétise la recommandation adoptée en 1981 à Bagdad par les ministres des Affaires étrangères de l'Organisation de la conférence islamique et appelant au jumelage des capitales islamiques avec Jérusalem. L'initiative a été menée par M. Mamadou Diop.

1,7 million de francs pour un chandelier islamique

Un chandelier en porcelaine bleu et blanc, modelé d'après un prototype irakien du XIIIe siècle, a été adjugé 1,7 million de francs vendredi dernier à l'Hôtel Drouot à Paris au profit d'un acheteur anglais. Estimé entre 300.000 et 400.000 francs, ce chandelier, dit de la période "XIVe", fait partie des six exemplaires répertoriés dans le monde.

Chat siamois évadé: décollage retardé au Caire

Un chat siamois a retardé de cinq heures, la semaine dernière, le décollage d'un Boeing 747 de la compagnie Kuwait Airlines à l'aéroport international du Caire. Quelques minutes avant le départ de l'avion, un passager égyptien a demandé l'aide de l'équipage pour retrouver son précieux matou évadé de sa cage. Coopératif, le pilote de l'appareil a fait évacuer les 284 passagers et vider les soutes. Le félin a finalement été retrouvé au fond du compartiment à bagages après plus de deux heures de fouille minutieuse.

Un cinquième Airbus pour la Royal Jordanian

Un cinquième Airbus A 310-300 a été livré jeudi dernier à la Royal Jordanian conformément au contrat signé en 1987 entre la compagnie aérienne et une société privée française. La Royal Jordanian avait alors passé commande de six appareils dont le premier est entré en service en mars 1987. Le dernier est attendu en 1990. Les Airbus, d'une capacité de 191 passagers, sont destinés à remplacer progressivement les Boeing 727 de la compagnie. Ils desserviront en priorité les pays du Golfe et l'Europe de l'Ouest.

Effondrement de la tour de Pavie

La tour de la cathédrale de Pavie, près de Milan, s'est effondrée vendredi dernier, blessant plusieurs personnes. L'édifice, qui date du XIe siècle, avait déjà donné des signes de faiblesse. Des travaux de restauration avaient été entrepris l'été dernier.

Une interview de S.A.R. le Prince héritier Hassan

France-Jordanie: un mariage de raison

Son Altesse Royale le Prince héritier Hassan est connu dans les milieux francophones de Jordanie pour son excellente maîtrise de la langue de Voltaire. Mais surtout, il est un promoteur actif des relations entre Amman et Paris. Peut-on mieux faire? Réponse du Prince, en français.

— D'où tenez-vous votre intérêt pour la France et la langue française?

Cela remonte à ma petite enfance. Je suis, par ma mère, à moitié turc. Et dans la haute société ottomane du début du siècle, il y avait une tradition francophone, qui nous a été transmise. Ma mère avait elle-même étudié le français à l'école des Dames de Sion, à Alexandrie. Il est du reste difficile d'évoquer l'histoire du Croissant fertile sans mentionner l'influence culturelle française. Tout naturellement, j'ai donc étudié cette langue au cours de mes études primaires et secondaires en Angleterre. Dès mon enfance, j'ai été très sensible au soutien qu'avait apporté le général De Gaulle à la famille Hachémite pour ses positions envers le gouvernement de Vichy... Depuis, je me rends très régulièrement, quoique pour de brefs séjours, en France et en Suisse.

— Lisez-vous beaucoup de livres et journaux en français?

Malheureusement j'ai plus souvent l'occasion de lire que de parler votre langue! Je lis régulièrement l'Express. Ajoutons-y quelques livres, de temps en temps. J'ai lu récemment le dernier Michel Taut ("Gorbachev", NDR) ainsi que "L'Empire éclairci" d'Hélène Carrère d'Encausse.

— Vous passez pour un ardent défenseur de la présence française en Jordanie, pays à forte tradition anglophone. Quel est l'intérêt d'apprendre cette langue,

pour les Jordaniens qui généralement parlent déjà très bien l'anglais?

Effectivement, il existe un stéréotype sur l'anglais, langue universelle qui dispenserait d'apprendre les autres. Mais on voit de plus en plus le rôle spécifique joué par la France au sein de la Communauté européenne, de même que le particularisme des autres pays à l'intérieur de la CEE. L'anglais oriente les relations vers le monde anglo-saxon, c'est-à-dire l'axe anglo-américain. Mais l'Europe, ce n'est pas seulement l'anglais. Et dans l'optique de 1992, si la Jordanie veut devenir une fenêtre asiatique pour l'Europe et vice-versa, il est très important de pouvoir parler directement, sans passer par l'anglais, avec les intéressés. C'est aussi important dans le contexte inter-arabe (Maghreb-Mashrek) et plus généralement arabo-africain, étant donnée la forte présence francophone sur ce dernier continent.

En Jordanie, l'intérêt porté à la langue française ne se limite-t-il pas aux classes les plus aisées de la société?

En cette année du Bicentenaire de la Révolution, c'est assez surprenant... (rires)

— Une réforme de l'enseignement est actuellement en cours, qui vise à introduire une seconde langue étrangère au tawjili (baccalauréat). Le français étant après l'anglais la langue la plus étudiée en Jordanie, va-t-il en résulter un regain d'enseignement de cette langue?

Si nous voulons rendre la deuxième langue obligatoire, et non optionnelle comme elle l'est actuellement, il va nous falloir un soutien plus large des autorités françaises dans notre coopération. L'enseignement du français doit d'abord prouver qu'il est d'aussi bonne qualité que celui de l'anglais. Il importe également que les Jordaniens trouvent des débouchés pratiques à cet enseignement. Ils sont de plus en

plus nombreux à s'intéresser à la langue et aux réalisations françaises, mais je ne vois pas encore beaucoup d'ouvertures scolaires pour eux, tant dans le secteur public que privé français. Nous attendons une interaction plus équilibrée. Certes, il existe à Paris un cliché sur la Jordanie, considérée comme un pays essentiellement anglophone. J'imagine que l'ambassade et le Bureau d'action linguistique rencontrent quelques difficultés à convaincre la France de développer sa contribution à l'enseignement dans notre pays...

— Quarante étudiants vont partir cette année diplômés en français de l'université du Yarmouk. Ils ont avant tout vocation à enseigner. Vont-ils trouver des postes?

Il existe des débouchés dans l'enseignement, civil et militaire. Mais également dans les nombreux secteurs industriels et scientifiques où nous travaillons en coopération avec la France.

— La majeure de français de l'université de Jordanie va disparaître l'an prochain. Pourquoi?

Selon mes informations, il s'agit avant tout d'un problème de financement.

— Vous attendez donc de la France qu'elle se manifeste plus sur ce problème?

Espérons. Cela en vaut la peine.

— Pensez-vous qu'on porte en France un intérêt sur le monde arabe proportionnel à celui porté à la France?

Je pense qu'on s'y intéresse beaucoup plus au Maghreb qu'au Moyen-Orient, si l'on excepte le Liban. Il y a beaucoup à faire pour établir davantage de ponts culturels entre la France et le Mashrek. J'espère que dans le contexte du nouveau Conseil de coopération arabe, nous pourrions développer l'intérêt pour l'Irak de Babylone, la Jordanie nabatéenne et le Yémen berceau des Arabes autant que pour



Le Prince Hassan: francophone depuis l'enfance

L'Egypte des pharaons. Il faut encourager des initiatives telles que la prochaine Conférence archéologique de Lyon, à laquelle la Jordanie est associée.

— Pourquoi la Jordanie s'attache-t-elle à diffuser des programmes de télévision en français?

Je n'ai pas fait d'étude de marché, mais il semble que ces programmes soient bien suivis dans les pays et surtout au-delà, en particulier dans les territoires occupés. Il est important que la Jordanie reste un pays ouvert, tant sur les pays voisins que sur les cultures étrangères. Ces programmes sont un instrument de dialogue culturel.

— Quelle est selon vous la plus belle réalisation française en Jordanie?

L'usine chimique d'Aqaba (fermentants), construite avec le concours de SPIE Batignolles.

— Comment jugez-vous la présence économique française en Jordanie?

Elle n'est pas encore très développée et gagnerait à l'être, sur-

Propos recueillis par François Ducroux

Municipales: bon score pour le PS

Le Parti socialiste est sorti principal vainqueur du deuxième tour des élections municipales en France dimanche dernier en reprenant le contrôle d'une vingtaine de grandes villes (plus de 30.000 habitants) perdues en 1983 au profit de la coalition RPR-UDF. Victorieux à Avignon, Orléans, Blois, Dunkerque, le PS a effectué une percée remarquable dans l'Est en enlevant les maires de Strasbourg et Mulhouse. Après leur succès à Nantes dès le premier tour, les socialistes renforcent également leur implantation dans l'Ouest en dépossédant le RPR de Brest et de Quimper.

Le parti de Pierre Mauroy essuie néanmoins quelques échecs retentissants, comme à Marseille, où Robert Vigouroux, exclu du PS, a été magistralement élu. A Paris et à Lyon, la majorité n'a pas réussi à entamer la suprématie du RPR. Les listes de Jacques Chirac et de Michel Noir y réalisent en effet le "grand chelem".

Autre enseignement important de ce scrutin: les bons résultats des écologistes et du Front

national. Avec 1.300 élus, dont un au Conseil de Paris, les Verts font ainsi leur entrée dans la vie municipale française. Ils ont obtenu entre 8 et 24% des suffrages dans les grandes villes.

Considéré comme l'un des grands perdants du premier tour, le FN (extrême-droite) a surpris les observateurs politiques en remportant 800 sièges. Dans les grandes agglomérations, l'enregistrement entre 6 et 35% des voix, Jean-Marie Le Pen totalisant 11% dans le vingtième arrondissement de Paris. Le maintien des listes du FN au second tour, faute d'accord électoral avec l'opposition a facilité l'élection des socialistes à Avignon et Mulhouse.

Enfin, le Parti communiste perd cinq villes importantes, dont La Ciotat, l'un de ses bastions méditerranéens, et ne contrôle plus que 48 municipalités. Un nouvel échec que la direction du PCF explique par le "fort taux d'abstention" (27,33%) et la "droitisation" du PS. (Alain Renon).

FIGURE

Le CERMOC à Amman

Un nouveau pôle scientifique à Amman: la guerre avait obligé le Centre d'études et de recherches sur le Moyen-Orient contemporain (CERMOC) à réduire ses activités au Liban, où le ministre français des Affaires étrangères l'avait établi en 1977. Le CERMOC conserve son siège officiel et sa bibliothèque à Beyrouth, mais son directeur, Marc Lavergne, a installé ses locaux à Amman. Inauguration le mardi 28 mars.



Marc Lavergne

— Si notre siège demeure à Beyrouth, où nous possédons une bibliothèque de 10.000 ouvrages requête cette année, Amman sera désormais la base des recherches et des publications du CERMOC. Nous avons choisi la Jordanie pour y créer cette antenne, car le Royaume n'a pas de rival pour sa position centrale dans la région. Amman offre une atmosphère et des structures propices à la recherche, et la Jordanie a des frontières ouvertes avec tous les pays voisins. De plus, ce nouveau bureau permettra aux chercheurs français de développer leurs connaissances sur le Royaume Hachémite, traditionnellement "domaine réservé" de leurs confrères anglo-saxons," explique Marc Lavergne, 36 ans, directeur du CERMOC.

Ce jeune chercheur, diplômé de l'Institut d'études politiques de Paris, docteur en géographie et licencié en Arabie, a déjà travaillé en Syrie, en Arabie saoudite, en Egypte et au Soudan. Il publie le mois prochain un ouvrage sur le Soudan contemporain. A Amman, c'est lui qui choisit les sujets et supervise les travaux des chercheurs du CERMOC.

— La création du CERMOC témoignait de l'intérêt Pénilsule la France à cette partie du monde. Nos recherches couvrent la Vallée du Nil, le Croissant fertile et la péninsule arabique, histoire contemporaine, sociologie, économie, sciences politiques et droit). Elles complètent les activités de l'Institut français d'études arabes de Damas (IFEAD) et

celles du Centre d'études et de documentation économique, juridique et sociale du Caire (CEDEJ). Car le premier privilège des études classiques et linguistiques, le second se concentre sur la Vallée du Nil. Le CERMOC, lui, a vocation à publier des études sur la société contemporaine et ses mutations au Moyen-Orient," explique Marc Lavergne.

Qu'on en juge par les sujets déjà en chantier: l'évolution actuelle des tribus berbères de Pétra (Anna Obanessian) et les politiques de santé en Jordanie (Brigitte Curmi). Et du 17 au 19 mai, un séminaire sur les mutations actuelles des sociétés rurales au Moyen-Orient, en collaboration avec le Forum de la pensée arabe. En projet également, une revue semestrielle sur des problèmes de société.

Le CERMOC compte déjà à son actif une quinzaine de publications, en arabe et en français. Il met à la disposition des chercheurs une bibliothèque spécialisée à Amman: on peut y consulter la plupart des périodiques du Moyen-Orient ainsi que des ouvrages de sciences humaines consacrés à la région. (FD).

Sept Palestiniens tués le week-end dernier

Répression accrue dans les territoires occupés

Sept Palestiniens tués au cours du week-end; une soixantaine blessés par balles; plus de trois cents cinquante mille habitants de Gaza soumis au couvre-feu mardi par l'armée israélienne; depuis la fin de la semaine dernière, le mouvement palestinien dans les Territoires occupés a redoublé d'intensité.

Point de départ de l'embrasement: des affiches placardées samedi par une patrouille israélienne sur les murs des maisons du quartier de Sheikh Rajwan à Gaza, invitant la population au calme, si elle souhaite "conserver ses enfants en vie et ses maisons debout". L'incident, suivi peu après de l'irruption de militaires, pourchassant un jeune lanceur de pierres, dans la mosquée du camp, a provoqué de violents affrontements au cours desquels trois Palestiniens ont trouvé la mort. Les heurts, qui se sont poursuivis jusque tard dans la nuit, ont par ailleurs fait soixante et un blessés parmi les manifestants.

Une grève générale a été déclarée dès le lendemain matin dans l'ensemble des Territoires occupés. Des émeutes ont aussitôt éclaté dans les camps de réfugiés de Nusseirat et Rafah (sud de Gaza) où cinq personnes ont été blessées par balles. Toujours à Gaza, un jeune Palestinien de 26 ans a été abattu par une patrouille après avoir poignardé trois soldats et grièvement blessé deux d'entre eux. Deux autres personnes ont été tuées au cours d'acrobies avec des patrouilles israéliennes. Neuf Palestiniens ont été blessés le même jour en Cisjordanie.

Ce regain de violence dans les Territoires occupés a été comparé par certains observateurs aux premiers jours de l'intifada. Il a notamment conduit le patriarche latin de Jérusalem à annuler pour la deuxième année consécutive la traditionnelle procession du dimanche des Rameaux dans la Ville Sainte.

A Gaza, où la tension reste la plus vive, les forces israéliennes ont imposé le couvre-feu mardi sur la majeure partie du territoire. Cette mesure est intervenue après la disparition d'un fusil automatique au cours d'un accrochage dans le quartier de Rimal dans la nuit du 20 au 21 mars. Sept mille habitants ont été privés d'eau et d'électricité et menacés de sanctions plus sévères encore si l'arme n'est pas rapidement restituée.

Les responsables arabes israéliens ont appelé la population arabe du pays à observer un mot d'ordre de grève générale le 30 mars, à l'occasion de la "Journée de la Terre". Réunis la semaine dernière à Shefaram en Galilée, ils ont en outre protesté contre "la politique discriminatoire du gouvernement israélien à l'égard du secteur arabe israélien".

Réchauffement Ryad-Téhéran

L'Iran a finalement obtenu gain de cause, sur le plan des principes, en ralliant les membres de l'Organisation de la Conférence Islamique (OCI) sur l'affaire Rusdie. On observe par ailleurs un réchauffement dans les relations entre Téhéran et l'Arabie saoudite.

Le succès de Téhéran n'est que partiel, car la résolution de l'OCI, qui clôturait jeudi dernier sa 18e réunion ministérielle à Bagdad, prête à interprétation sur l'affaire Rusdie. Les dirigeants du monde musulman, soucieux de dédramatiser une affaire hautement passionnelle au-delà de ses aspects religieux, ont déclaré l'écrivain "apostate" et son ouvrage "blasphématoire". Mais ils ont refusé de condamner au mort Salmaan Rushdie, musulman de naissance, comme le réclamait l'Iran en invoquant la législation islamique.

L'Arabie saoudite, et avec elle bon nombre d'Etats arabes et africains, ont dénié à la Conférence toute compétence théologique. «Il y a des divergences sur les conclusions à tirer», a déclaré le ministre saoudien des Affaires étrangères, estimant pour sa part que l'Islam n'est pas menacé par un livre.

La conférence a néanmoins interdit la publication de l'ouvrage dans les pays islamiques et menacé de boycotter les maisons d'édition qui le diffuseraient.

Le succès est appréciable pour l'Iran, d'autant plus qu'il a été obtenu en Arabie saoudite, qui lui dispute le leadership du monde musulman. De plus, le rival saoudien joue traditionnellement un rôle prépondérant au sein de l'OCI.

Selon les milieux politiques de Ryad, l'Arabie saoudite et l'Iran ont fait un "pas appréciable" dans la voie de la normalisation de leurs relations, rompues depuis avril dernier à la suite d'un sabotage imputé par Ryad à Téhéran. Le représentant de l'Iran à la Conférence a qualifié de "fait positif" la présence même de la délégation iranienne dans la capitale saoudienne. De son côté, le ministre saoudien des Affaires étrangères s'est déclaré "heureux d'entendre ces propos qui sont un bon signe de solidarité islamique". A en croire l'entourage du délégué iranien, des "contacts préliminaires" pourraient avoir lieu prochainement entre les deux capitales. Leurs relations avaient atteint leur plus bas niveau en juillet 1987, après les affrontements sanglants provoqués à La Mecque par des pèlerins iraniens.

A propos de l'Afghanistan, l'OCI a invité "les représentants des Moudjahidines afghans" à occuper le siège vacant de Kaboul. C'est donc la résistance dans son ensemble, dont les chiites basés en Iran, qui occuperont ce siège, et non pas le seul gouvernement intérimaire basé au Pakistan, qui représente uniquement les sunnites. Cette solution ménageait la position de Téhéran, soucieux d'associer les chiites au gouvernement.

Dix pays, dont la Syrie, les deux Yémen, l'Algérie et la Palestine ont émis des réserves ou n'ont pas entériné cette décision. Le gouvernement intérimaire des Moudjahidines a été reconnu par l'Arabie saoudite, le Soudan et Bahrein.

Sur la question palestinienne, la session a reconnu l'Etat palestinien indépendant et a appelé à placer les territoires occupés sous mandat des Nations-Unies. Elle demande à une force de l'ONU d'assurer la protection des habitants palestiniens et de superviser le retrait total et inconditionnel d'Israël de ces territoires. (d'après agence)

A L'AFFICHE

CINEMA

1789

D'Ariane Mnouchkine, avec la troupe du Théâtre du Soleil (1974): suite de tableaux évoquant les grandes heures de la Révolution.

The African queen

De John Huston, avec Humphrey Bogart et Katherine Hepburn: un homme et une femme diamétralement opposés se découvrent à l'occasion d'une mission militaire périlleuse sur un bateau en jungle africaine.

Centre américain, jeudi 23 à 19h00 (en anglais)

Bye bye Birdie

De George Sidney, avec Janet Leigh et Dick Van Dyke: comédie musicale. Une star du rock est appelée sous les drapeaux et son manager se voit menacé de chômage. Un concours télévisé arrangera tout.

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Centre américain, jeudi 23 et mardi 28 à 19h00

James Bond contre Dr. No.

Avec Sean Connery, un classique du genre: l'agent 007, envoyé dans les Caraïbes pour enquêter sur la mort d'un confère, se trouve au prise avec le cruel Dr. No. et de charmantes créatures.

British Council, mardi 28 à 18h00 (en anglais)

En italien

"Non c'è fumo senza fuoco", avec Annie Girardot, Mireille Darc et Bernard Fresson (dramatique).

Hayat Arts Centre, jeudi 23 à 19h30.

Ciné-club

Séances respectivement à 13h00, 15h00, 17h00, 19h00, 20h30. Le 23: Star man, Alvin, le 24: The Avenger, Vol. 2: The 24th Star wars, Caravans, Armand, High road to China, Educating Rita. Le 25: L'histoire d'un homme, Death Stalker II, The confessions, Le Dieu créa la femme, From nine to five, Le 26: Space balls, Kiss of the vampire, Last Tango in Paris, Al Lijah Al Mou'ass (Syria), Si le 27: Humanoité, Blood feud, Officer à gentlemans, Zorba the Greek, Le 28: Barbarella, Room with a view, Breathless, They shoot horses, don't they?, Out of Africa, Le 29: Prince of darkness, The red sun, Night school, X, Y & Z, Cry of freedom.

Films en version originale. Tel 603901. Route de l'université, à droite après l'hôtel Jerusalem, puis à gauche, 300m.

CONFERENCE

L'art et la Révolution française

Nelly Lama est critique d'art et professeur d'histoire de l'art et de dessin. Elle aborde l'influence du courant révolutionnaire sur l'expression artistique en France, à la fin du 18ème siècle.

CCF, lundi 27 à 18h00 (en français)

TELEVISION

"La main à couper," avec Michel Bouquet, Michel Serrault et Bernard Blier: policier. Hélène, mère de famille éponyme, fait la connaissance d'un ami de ses enfants dont elle tombe amoureuse. Se rendant chez lui, elle le découvre mort assassiné. Elle prend alors la fuite. Mais elle est suivie et devient bientôt suspecte numéro un... (JTV, vendredi 24 à 17h30)

Focus on people

Tobe a woman of the field

By Mariam M. Shahin

"Women of the field trailing your tails over the sun-baked earth long robbed and not exactly silent. Barefoot over the fertile path — landmarked by your seeds. Scarfed and Scarfed."

By Haya Hussein (Shades of Eve)

This week Leila Bisharat Halabi talks to Focus on people about her life in the Jordan Valley. She describes the differences in attitudes and lifestyles of people in the Jordan Valley as they compare to those in urban Amman.

Some 90 kilometres outside of Amman, on the way to the North Shubeh, lies Tal Al Arbeen. Leila Halabi has made this Jordan Valley village, which is only a seven minute drive from the archaeological site of Pella, her home. Born into a prominent family in the city of Salt and raised in private schools in Jerusalem, Bir Zeit and Cairo, Leila Halabi received the best education that a girl could get in the earlier part of the twentieth century.

She recalls: "In 1948 my family moved to Cairo, where my father continued his work in the horse trade. I was enrolled at the English school, a school that had been established by King George of England and had originally excluded Arab students. At that time it was a very exclusive school, I don't mean socially I mean academically and in terms of extracurricular activities. I took lessons in ballet, piano, hockey, long jump, net ball and was head of the social activities committee. Leila learned how to be independent and practical, and acquired what she described as a 'sportive spirit' in life.

Although she had planned to attend finishing school in Switzerland, Leila met and wed Raouf Halabi the year she graduated from high school. "I was a bride at 18, my husband was 16 years older than I was and I saw him as a tall, handsome stranger who swept me off my feet. He took me to the Jordan Valley and a new life began for me."

Raouf Halabi's livelihood was in the Jordan Valley where he owned and ran large citrus farms.

In the Jordan Valley, Leila Halabi's education continued. "Women in the Jordan Valley know nothing about satin slippers and silk negligees or designer make-up, nor are they familiar with envy and spite. Their minds are both inquisitive and youthful, and they never get bored. Once I started living in their midst, boredom, envy and spite became as foreign to me as these characteristics were to them."

The serene life that Leila Halabi had known in the Jordan Valley with her husband and three children, Hana, Issa and Omar, came to an abrupt end when on January 1, 1970 during one of regular early morning raids by the Israeli air force into Jordan, Raouf Halabi was machine-gunned from the air at his home on the East Bank of the Jordan River. At 33, Leila Halabi was a widow, a mother of three young children and the "heritor" of responsibilities she had never dreamed of.

With the exception of brief interludes in Beirut where her children were educated, the woman that came to be known as Um Issa in the Jordan Valley, never really left her adopted home. "The Jordan Valley is our land, our home, our livelihood, it feeds the whole of Jordan. I often pity the 'privileged' social cast that I was born into for their ignorance of nature, their inability to appreciate it, to dwell in it, learn from it and grow through it." Um Issa is very saddened by the rather artificial social atmosphere that is constantly underlined by complaints and eternal boredom, that has developed among the "well to do" in urban Amman. "City people are not interested in country folk, they come to visit the valley and expect catering. They never bother to explore anything that is 'real' — the thorns, the snakes, or the vegetables."

The wealth of the villagers and the bedouins is something that most urbanites are either unaware of or simply choose to ignore. "People in the Jordan Valley are so rich in their folk tales, their dress and even their notions of romantic love. An old bedouin woman was once asked by a foreign writer about the bedouins' notion of love, and answered by saying that 'where we come from even the donkeys fall in love.' This notion of love spills over to other aspects of life in the Jordan Valley. Um Issa describes the valley's parent-child relationships as very healthy and explains that the cooperative spirit there is superb. "Unlike people in Amman, people in the valley listen to each other, they take the time out to talk. Mothers are not always busy playing bridge, doing aerobics or attending social gatherings. They spend time with their children."

Despite the social unacceptability of pre-marital relationships, Um Issa asserts that youngsters in the valley know everything about the practical aspects of life. "After all when a whole family lives in one or two rooms, they get to know the facts of life and never develop the complexes that youngsters from very sheltered homes often develop."

During the past 18 years Leila Halabi lived in Beirut, Amman and Tal Al Arbeen as a single woman, more precisely as a widow. Her "title" as she calls it, is one that she feels has made her a social outcast in many ways. "People in Jordan, in the Middle East and possibly everywhere have a very strange notion of widowed women, which, to say the least, is disturbing. Even family members only invite you to family parties, they never invite you to other social gatherings. They look and talk to you as if they feel sorry for you and always speak condescendingly. 'Oh Leila, you have devoted so much to time to your children and your farm, you must think of yourself, why don't you get married again?' Statements and questions such as these make me laugh."

Analysing herself and figuring out why in fact she chose not to remarry Leila Halabi asserts: "I chose not to remarry because I did not want to. I felt my children could never accept another man as their father and I came to enjoy my independence and the sense of accomplishment which I had not known before."

Many of Leila's friends and relatives wonder what it is that Leila does when she is in the Jordan Valley. "People always ask me that stupid question, 'What do you do in the valley?' What could I possibly be doing? I take care of my children and my house, I make preserves and take care of other responsibilities in the farm."

Leila is very grateful to the villagers for the healthy way of life they have taught her to lead. "They don't overcook their vegetables and meats, they use natural herb medicines and they make everyday events seem very spicy." Most of all, she says, "They are able to laugh at themselves."

Life in the Jordan Valley has changed since Leila first began living in the valley more than thirty years ago. Electricity was installed ten years back, and television has left a lasting impact on the valley's culture. "Now they know about what is happening in London and Bangladesh before I do. They also let me know how my son Issa does in car rallying competitions before I have a chance to find out from him," she says. "We have lots of little girls called Angela, Sue Ellen and Melissa in the valley who were named after TV personalities."

Lots of other changes have occurred in the valley in education and medical services, "a lot still remains to be desired", but according to Leila, "time and patience will give the Jordan Valley its deserved due."

Leila has called agriculture "the finest of all the arts, for it feeds us and allows us to grow." Looking back at her life in the valley, her dedication to the land and to her family she says she expects no praise and above all, she has no regrets, "the roots below the earth claim no reward for making the branches fruitful and neither do I."

The rebuilding of Basra

By Maamoun Youssef
Reuters

BASRA — Iraq's southern port of Basra, devastated by shelling during the Gulf war, plans to preserve the ruins of some schools and mosques to remind coming generations of the horrors of war.

The country's second largest city, Basra was in the front line during Iraq's eight-year conflict with Iran.

A U.N.-sponsored truce last August halted the fighting in which hundreds of the city's one million residents died. Even before the guns fell silent, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein allocated \$5 billion for reconstruction.

"We have an unlimited budget," Basra Governor Anwar Saeed Al-Hadithi told correspondents. "Every state establishment will spend as much as required under the reconstruction plan to turn the city into the pearl of the Gulf."

Hussein asked Iraq's 17 other governors to assist. Thousands of labourers with heavy equipment are at work, with the first phase of renovation due for completion in May.

Basra port authorities have also started to clear war debris from the Shatt Al-Arab waterway.

Hadithi said Basra's water, electricity and telephone networks should return to normal and most city streets should be repaved by May. Dredgers are also clearing six major water channels in the city.

A reminder

The governor said the ruins of several shell-hit schools, mosques and churches would be preserved "to remind coming generations of the horror of the war."

As the rebuilding of the city progresses, workers are planting new trees along a boulevard close to the Shatt Al-Arab, the confluence of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers leading to the Gulf.

In the waterway itself, giant cranes, tugs and dredgers are operating to clear the port and the stretch of river under Iraq's control.

Nearly 80 vessels ranging from old sailing dhows to ocean-going cargo ships were trapped in the Shatt Al-Arab by the war, many of the vessels submerged, rusting hulks.

Port officials said they had so far raised three Indian cargo ships and two dhows.

Transport and Communications Minister Mohammed Hamza Al Zubeidi has said Iraq had bought a new \$13-million excavator to help dredge and deepen port anchorages.

The port before the war was Iraq's main ocean outlet, while the Shatt Al-Arab was a major channel for oil exports from both Iraq and Iran.



Basrah Revival

For some the 'American dream' comes true!

By Joan Mower
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — As he fled, wounded, through the jungles of Cambodia, Sihan Siv never could have imagined that in 13 years he would be a White House aide to an American president.

For Siv, 41, deputy assistant to President George Bush for public liaison, the "American Dream" is not a cliché. His almost-unbelievable story is the stuff of movies.

In a symbolic gesture, Siv opted to start his job Feb. 13, the 13th anniversary of his escape from Cambodia. But, he said with a smile, the highlight of his 4-week-old tenure at the White House came when he met Bush last week, and the president "pronounced my name right (See-Chan Siv)."

In his new job, one of two deputies in the office, Siv is Bush's contact with ethnic and minority groups. He deals with issues like civil rights, education, the homeless and refugees.

Siv's tortuous path to presidential aide began after the Khmer Rouge, a brutal communist insurgency, defeated the U.S.-backed government of Lon Nol in April 1975. About 15 family members, including his mother, were among the hundreds of thousands of people killed by the Pol Pot regime.

Before his escape, Siv rode a bicycle across Cambodia for 20 days, survived in a Khmer Rouge labour camp eating a bowl of rice a day and worked myriad jobs from dawn to dusk.

"I dug irrigation canals; I plowed land. I planted rice. I harvested rice," he said.

He fled Cambodia 10 months after the Khmer Rouge takeover by jumping off a timber truck and running through the jungle without food for three days until he reached Thailand. En route, he stepped on a land mine and suffered leg wounds. He has recovered well enough to become a jogger.

Philosophy

It was his mother, a Buddhist,

whose philosophy helped him survive, Siv said.

"The two things she told me are, 'as long as you live you must always have hope,' and, 'happiness is something you can't keep unless you give it away.' Those are the basic values of life that I have always kept with me," he said in an interview.

Siv's new life, working in an ornate, high-ceilinged office at the White House complex, seems worlds away from the Cambodian "hush."

But Siv, who dresses in pin-striped suits with suspenders and speaks English with an accent, keeps mementos nearby: native musical instruments, silver ornaments and books about his native land.

The son of a policeman, Siv received his high school and college education in Phnom Penh, Cambodia's capital. Before the capital fell, he worked with an airline, as a high school teacher and as an administrator with Care, the relief organisation.

He was supposed to be evacuated from the U.S. embassy by helicopter, but missed the last flight out April 12, 1975, by 30 minutes. It took him until the following February to make his break.

During that time, Siv was forced to conceal his education from the Khmer Rouge, who were determined to stamp out the intelligentsia. And his decision to get to the Thai-Cambodian border meant a traumatic separation from his family.

Arriving in Thailand, Siv was jailed as an illegal entrant, but was later released and placed in a refugee camp. There, a Catholic relief group found a couple in Wallingford, Connecticut, willing to sponsor Siv. He arrived in the United States with \$2 in his pocket.

Charisma

"He's a person with a great deal of charisma," said Bob Charles, the Wallingford housing consultant who brought Siv to

Saving our planet — a top priority

THE WELLBEING of our planet has now been firmly placed at the top of the international agenda — and will hopefully remain there until increasingly urgent ecological problems have been resolved.

This was the optimistic view being taken among officials of the United Nations' Environment Programme (UNEP) after the London conference on saving the Earth's protective ozone layer. The three-day meeting, organised by the British Government and the U.N. offshoot, attracted representatives from 124 countries, mostly at Ministerial level.

But the depletion of the ozone layer is only one of the ways in which mankind is imperilling its own future as the conference was reminded by UNEP's Director, Egypt's Dr. Mostafa Tolba.

"Famine, drought, pollution, deforestation, soil loss and the extinction of plant and animal life are all warnings that we risk unravelling the global web of life," he said. "The life-support systems of our planet are collapsing, and we owe it to the newly-born generation to do all in our power to hand over a living Earth."

There was a similar message in the keynote speech delivered by Kenya's President Daniel arap Moi, in whose country UNEP has its headquarters.

"There can be no winners from the damage that man continues to inflict upon the planet," he said before outlining the effects of depleting the ozone layer alone. He appealed to all countries to recognise this impending disaster by signing the Montreal Protocol.

This international agreement, drawn up two years ago, is de-

signed to protect the ozone layer from further damage, caused mainly by chemicals called chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs). They are used in aerosols, refrigerators and in the manufacture of plastic foam.

The accord calls for a 50 per cent reduction in the use of CFCs by the end of the century. But long before the London conference there was a growing realisation that this did not go far enough.

Delegates also urged that ways of helping developing countries to adjust to the phasing out of CFCs should be a major feature of the Helsinki review meeting.

They were thus echoing President Moi's appeal for compensating financial aid and technology transfers to the Third World. But leading donor-nations have indicated that they will place a greater emphasis on environmental factors in the disbursement of aid.

Existing signatories to the Montreal treaty are estimated to account for about 80 per cent of global CFC production, but this will rise by about ten per cent if those governments who promised to join the agreement at the London conference fulfil their pledge.

Scientists have warned that whatever is done now, the damage caused by CFCs in the atmosphere will persist for decades. And each year of additional delay will aggravate the problem.

The London conference provided an opportunity to lay the groundwork for a meeting, to be

held in Helsinki in May, at which the Montreal accord will be reviewed. And a final declaration from the conference included a call for the strengthening of the agreement.

This said that the ultimate goal to be the total elimination of the production and use of CFCs and other harmful substances.

The conference had provided clear evidence of the mounting concern among governments all over the world regarding the urgent need to take effective action to safeguard the ozone layer. This, in turn, the document added, would reduce the impact of global warming, the so-called greenhouse effect.

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Those in the fast lane, read 'N' for nature

Although popular wisdom — 'an apple a day keeps the doctor away' — has known the benefits that the human body derives from vegetables and fruit, the modern diet has moved alarmingly away from nature. Advice on good eating may sound clichéd but it still makes a lot of sense for the increasing numbers of people in the fast lane.

By Antikki Nissinen

GENEVA — When mankind was still young, some 4,000 years ago, the staple diet imposed on it by Nature consisted of wild plants and small, huntable animals.

Comparison between that diet and the current eating habits of Americans, for example, shows great differences in protein, fat, sodium, potassium and calorie intake.

But the most significant changes in human diet have taken place only during last two centuries. Biologically, therefore, people have had little time to adapt to rapid changes in food which occurred first in Northern Europe and North America and only very recently in other areas. The problem is beginning to be felt in the developing world.

The changes have led to a much-increased supply of protein-rich foods, and at the same time, to an excess of animal fats,

the so-called saturated fats. With the changes has emerged an epidemic of such chronic ailments as cardiovascular diseases and cancer, now the leading causes of premature death in the developed world.

The same chronic diseases are also becoming a serious problem in developing countries — a fact that is hidden by the high prevalence of communicable diseases. Indeed, cardiovascular diseases, cancer and accidents are the three main causes of death for the age group 15 to 64 in both developed and developing countries.

By the late 1950s, the idea took hold that some chronic diseases might be due in whole or in part to nutrition. Nutritional excess in parallel with nutritional deficiencies (for instance iodine or iron) became a focus of research. Since then, accumulated scientific evidence has confirmed the role of diet — together with other kinds of behaviour such as smoking,

stress and a lack of physical activity — in the development of chronic diseases.

Excess intake of animal fats is the main cause of elevated serum cholesterol, the main contributor to atherosclerosis and its consequence — heart attack. The development of hypertension, which puts the individual at risk of strokes as well as heart attacks, is very closely related to such dietary factors as obesity, high sodium intake and heavy alcohol drinking.

Some 35 per cent of cancers are associated with diet. Excess fat intake has been linked to an increased incidence of cancers of the breast and colon, while food preservatives (for instance salting) have been associated with stomach cancer.

When other chronic diseases associated with diet such as gallstones, osteoporosis and goitre are taken into account, the picture becomes clearer and more comprehensive. A healthy diet becomes even more meaningful if the harmful effects of heavy alcohol drinking are taken into account. Alcohol has become an integral part of the diet in many cultures. Yet excessive drinking increases not only the risk of traffic accidents, but it's also responsible for liver cirrhosis and other health and social problems. The high calorie content of alco-

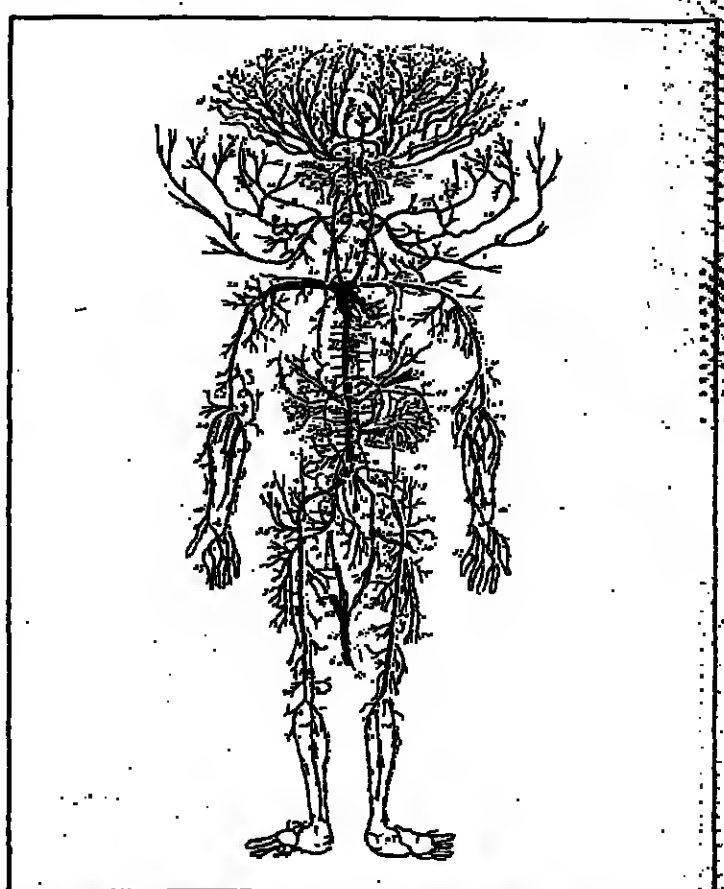
hol contributes to excess body weight.

The least developed countries may still be a position to inhibit the development, among the whole population, of those harmful lifestyles which have evolved during recent decades in the developed world — lifestyles which are taking a great toll in terms of human suffering and economic costs.

In countries with excess or emerging chronic disease problems, guidelines for healthy nutrition include recommendations about fat intake. For most individuals this means eating less animal fat in all its forms like butter, processed food and so on.

A healthy diet should contain fruits, vegetables and wholegrain cereals; this situation still prevails in many developing countries. The diet should not contain much salt — physiologically a human does not need any added salt. A healthy diet should on the whole contain a balance of carbohydrates (in the form of fruits, vegetables and cereals) and protein (ideally from beans and pulses, low fat dairy products, fish or lean meat).

What is striking of course is that such an exemplary diet is very close to the actual diet in many developing countries. — Academic File.



The delicately patterned arterial system, as an 18th century artist portrayed it, has to be protected from the clogging effect of excess fat in the diet.

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Tea break in the battle of the books

The British Library, treasure trove of oriental manuscripts, is in danger of losing or damaging some of its possessions in a bureaucratic dispute over its planned move to a new site.

By Sajid Rizvi

LONDON — The British Library, home to thousands of precious manuscripts and printed books from the Middle East and Asia, is at the centre of what only with great understatement may be termed an academic argument.

The library, actually a conglomeration of 19 separate buildings in and outside London, is preparing to move into a brand-new multimillion dollar complex be-

ginning 1993. With most of the space at the new site, near Central London's St. Pancras station, expected to be shared by 11 million books and staff looking after them, competition among departments has peaked as building work has progressed.

The library's massive oriental division at Store Street, near the Oxford Street shopping district, is the single most vulnerable collection, according to academics currently engaged in a debate on its

future. Proposals to move the oriental collection to the India Office Library building a few kilometres away provoked some of the loudest howls of protest.

Academic critics feared the transfer, ostensibly to save costs, might be a thinly disguised attempt to deprive the oriental library of the pride of place in the main complex. Other academics argued the transfer would make the combined Middle Eastern and Asian collections of India Office and British libraries the best in the world.

The British Library's oriental collection at Store Street, in about 350 languages or language groups, includes some 650,000 printed books, 42,000 manu-

scripts, over 20,000 fragments, 7,500 serials and 1,100 newspaper titles. Barry C. Bloomfield, director of collection development, said the library's Arabic and Persian possessions were the best in the world.

But the building is needed to house the library's administrative offices and save rent currently paid for premises in the fashionable but exorbitantly priced Soho in London's West End. If the collection moves to India Office Library and then again to the new complex before the end of the century, critics say, manuscripts may be lost, books may see damage and scholars from all over the world may be deprived of mounds of research into the material,



An example of restoration work on a Chinese scroll at the British Library's Conservation Studio in London.



Yasin H. Safadi, deputy director of the British Library's oriental collection, with an illuminated Quran copied in Egypt in the early 14th century AD (704 AH).

A maestro comes to Jordan

AMMAN — The career of National Symphony Orchestra Music Director Mstislav Rostropovich has been distinguished by an enviable diversity, bringing him recognition as conductor, cellist, and pianist; as one of today's most important catalysts for the creation of contemporary music, and as one of the world's most outspoken defenders of human rights. For his many achievements, but particularly for accomplishments with the National Symphony, Maestro Rostropovich was named Musical America's 1987 Musician of the Year. Among the other accolades that were presented during the year of his 60th birthday were the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit of West Germany, Commander of France's Legion of Honor, Honorary Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, and from the United States, the Presidential Medal of Freedom. His 60th birthday was also celebrated with gala concerts and festivals in Washington, New York, Boston, Paris, London, and Tokyo, as well as a musical cruise in the Mediterranean. In 1988 he was made a member of the Academy of Arts of the French Institute, often called "the Forty-Immortals."

Maestro Rostropovich's career as conductor began in the Soviet Union in 1961. He was active in this capacity throughout the

Soviet Union and Eastern Europe for many years before making his United States conducting debut in 1975. On October 4, 1977, he became music director of the National Symphony Orchestra, which today has taken a place among America's finest orchestras, a fact largely attributed to his leadership. Critics on four continents have praised the "transformation" of the National Symphony during his tenure. His major achievements include: extensive touring of the United States and abroad, critically acclaimed recordings, and six years of nationally broadcast concerts, the first in the Orchestra's history. Under Maestro Rostropovich's guidance, the Orchestra has commissioned works by some of the world's most distinguished composers and has begun, with the Sidney L. Hechinger Foundation, a commissioning project designed to create new orchestral works, with special encouragement given to American composers. The first of the Hechinger Commissions, Stephen Albert's Symphony RiverRun, won the 1985 Pulitzer Prize for Music.

As cellist, Maestro Rostropovich's artistry has been recognised for four decades. Considered by many to be the world's greatest living cellist, he has recorded virtually the entire cello repertoire and has inspired some

of this era's finest composers to create works especially for him. As pianist, Maestro Rostropovich often accompanies his wife, the acclaimed soprano Vishnevskaya, in recital. His extensive discography also includes many performances in that role, and together they have toured the globe.

In all his performing areas, Maestro Rostropovich has been one of today's most positive forces for the creation of contemporary music. The list of those who have written for him is enormous, including Shostakovich, Prokofiev, Britten, and Bernstein. He is viewed as a leading interpreter of the works of Shostakovich and Prokofiev, with whom he shared personal, as well as professional relationships. His equally close association with Benjamin Britten is perpetuated through his participation in the Aldeburgh Festival, which Britten founded and of which Maestro Rostropovich is an artistic director.

Under the Patronage of Their Royal Highnesses The Crown Prince and Princess Sarvath The Young Women's Muslim Association has the honour to present Mstislav Rostropovich The Grand Master of the Cello in concert at the Royal Cultural Centre on Saturday 25th March 1989 at 7.30 pm. For further information and tickets contact Mrs Christina Friis between 10.00 am — 1.00 pm on 649189. Cost of tickets JD 20. All proceeds to go to the YWMA Centre for the special education of handicapped children.



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Independent oil producers continue to support OPEC

BOULDER, Colorado (R) — Oil nations outside OPEC are eager to continue to help the group to curb excess supply and buoy prices beyond the April-June quarter for which cutbacks are already agreed, officials of those nations said.

At an energy conference, some sources with the non-OPEC group said it would hold strategy talks between now and June.

But they said one uncertainty was whether OPEC (the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) would raise the ceiling on its own supply, now 18.5 million barrels per day (b/d), in the second half of 1989.

Nine non-OPEC nations agreed to cut or restrain their supply in the April-June quarter — action likely to take about 300,000 b/d out of the market — only after OPEC sharply curbed its excess production.

"It is clear that the cooperative feeling will continue and there will be meetings perhaps this month or next," said Rashid Ibn Khalid Al Barwani, Oman's oil marketing director.

"I think the cooperation will be

there even if OPEC decides that an increase in their quotas is warranted," he said.

The Oman official and representatives from other non-OPEC nations attended a conference organised by the International Research Centre for Energy and Economic Development.

They said these countries plan a formal meeting in May to discuss world oil markets in the second half of 1989 but that earlier, informal discussions are also planned.

Herman Franssen, a former International Energy Agency chief economist who acts as advisor to Oman, said at the energy conference that the objective of stabilising prices at about \$18 a barrel was being achieved.

Angola, China, Colombia, Egypt, Malaysia, Mexico, Oman, North Yemen, Norway, the

Soviet Union and Brunei are non-OPEC sellers that agreed to trim exports by five per cent or at least avoid increasing their market share at OPEC expense.

Now, officials say, the question is what to do if OPEC decides in June to lift its ceiling above 18.5 million b/d because of a perception that oil demand will stay strong.

"We don't know what the market will be yet in the second half of the year," Oman's Al Barwani explained.

Even so, officials of non-OPEC states want to continue to cooperate with OPEC.

"Angola is willing and ready to continue our cooperation in order to stabilise prices to get the right prices for our oil," Energy Minister Zeferino Cassa Yombu said.

Zhao Shengzhen, an official of the China National Offshore Oil Corp, said China is prepared to keep exports at about 500,000 b/d through 1989.

Domestic demand in China is rising, he said, suggesting there was no problem in reducing ex-

ports from last year's level of around 540,000 b/d.

Mexico was also willing to go along with slightly lower exports as domestic demand rises. And it might have trouble expanding production anyway.

Petroleum Mexicanos state oil company planning coordinator Jaime Willars said Mexico has agreed to keep exports of crude oil and products at about 1.3 million b/d, down from 1.375 million b/d in 1988.

Willars said this level would be reconsidered in the next few months but there were other constraints of any major change.

With revenues needed to service the nation's foreign debt, Mexico would only have \$1.5 billion to reinvest in oil this year, enough to maintain output at current levels.

"Shadow" OPEC countries can influence OPEC countries if they continue their restraint," said John Sauer, head of planning for Dupont Co's Conoco Inc.

But Sauer said that OPEC, with its huge reserves and production capacity, remains dominant.



Rilwana Lukman

Lukman awaits response

Meanwhile OPEC President Rilwana Lukman of Nigeria said ministers from oil exporting states outside OPEC have been invited to meet key OPEC ministers but a final response is still awaited.

Lukman told Reuters that non-OPEC ministers have been invited to meet the eight members of OPEC's monitoring committee which convenes on March 29 in Vienna.

"We want to use this opportunity to meet representatives... of non-OPEC oil producers," he said. "We have invited the non-OPEC. We haven't got a final response yet from the secretary general (of OPEC) but he is arranging something."

Lukman said he did not know which non-OPEC producers were likely to respond to the OPEC invitation.

He also declined comment on the whether non-OPEC producers which had undertaken to restrict supply in the second quarter of this year would go on doing that after June.

"Let's do the second quarter first," he said.

Output around quotas

Lukman said the group is now producing oil at around its quota of 18.5 million b/d.

Asked if the total was within this agreed ceiling, he said, "I should think so, give or take a couple of percentage points."

OPEC's news agency OPECNA said Monday that February's OPEC output, calculated as domestic consumption plus export sales and stock withdrawals, was down to 17.4 million b/d for 12 members excluding the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The UAE has an OPEC-assigned quota of 988,000 b/d but has called it unfair and has exceeded it in the past. It submitted no figures to OPEC officials reviewing February output, OPECNA said, but the Middle East Economic Survey Monday estimated UAE output up at 1.5 million b/d in that month.

Lukman said of UAE output, "we can estimate what the UAE is doing. We don't know for sure. Maybe they're doing somewhat

over their quota but not very much."

Lukman declined to comment on the prospect of OPEC adopting a higher output ceiling in the second half of 1989.

Honouring ceilings

In Caracas, Venezuela Energy and Mines Minister Celestino Armas said Tuesday that OPEC nations must honour their output quotas during the critical second quarter if they hope to hold on to gains in oil prices since November.

"The critical moment for OPEC will begin on the first of April, when demand begins to fall and we must resist the temptation to increase production levels," Armas told a news conference.

Armas said OPEC producers should adjust their supply to the lower second-quarter demand in order to keep prices stable.

The upward trend in oil prices is due to OPEC discipline, cooperation from non-OPEC oil producers and the reduction of supply from accidents on North Sea platforms, Armas said.

Non-OPEC producers have voluntarily taken 300,000 b/d of supply off the market in recent weeks "without asking for anything in return from OPEC," he added.

Indonesia blames traders

In Jakarta, a top Indonesian official Wednesday hit out at futures traders for pushing the price of oil too high and warned that consumers may start to look to alternative types of energy.

"They (futures traders) create an unstable situation in the market, and they play on the shoulders of consumers and producers. Futures trading... only benefits the traders," Mines and Energy Minister Ginjar Kartasasmita said.

He was speaking to reporters after announcing a complex new pricing system for his country's oil exports to make them more competitive with market prices and replace the current system of haggling every month with buyers on a price.

The new price, starting next month, will be based on the average spot market oil price over 30 days of a basket of five crudes.

The government will then calculate the difference between Indonesia's main export crude, Minas, and the basket of oils over the past year. This will either be added or subtracted to the 30-day average.

Initial reaction from oil companies was largely positive. "It's much, much better than the unilateral system they've applied to date. Now at least we have an approximation of the market price," said the head of one local oil firm.

Japan buys about 60 per cent of oil exports from Indonesia, the

only Asian member of the OPEC.

Ginjar said market prices at the moment, at 15-month highs and above OPEC's target of \$18 a barrel, were unrealistic.

"I am worried that if the price is too high the consumers will look to energy alternatives," he said.

He was concerned the high prices might tempt producers to sell more oil and flood the market. "This is a very serious danger, we should be cautious about that," he said.

Indonesia, with oil its major export, has vivid memories of 1986 when overproduction sent oil prices down sharply, forcing it to devalue its currency by nearly a third and borrow huge sums from abroad to cover the fall in its export earnings.

A drop in demand from next month, however, will send prices down, Ginjar said.

"I don't believe the price in the second quarter will be as good as now. I'm worried that after May and June the price will drop," he said.

Prices top \$20 in N.Y.

In New York, U.S. crude oil prices came back with a vengeance Tuesday, climbing more than 70 cents to close above

\$20 a barrel as the bullish mood that lifted prices nearly 10 per cent last week resurfaced.

"The whole floor is bullish," said one trader during active afternoon trading. The rise came after a big drop Monday that was linked to technical factors within the market.

The benchmark U.S. crude, West Texas Intermediate for May delivery, ended the day up 71 cents at \$20.05 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

North Sea Brent blend for May delivery, the most widely traded international crude, was quoted at \$18.50 a barrel, a gain of 55 cents from Monday and its highest level in 15 months.

Traders attributed the climb in crude prices to rising petrol and heating oil prices, optimism that non-OPEC producers will reduce output, and indications that the 13 nations of OPEC are sticking to their production limits.

"We're pretty much back on track, the market looks really strong," said one trader Tuesday.

Analysts said the crude rally was also supported by higher prices for petroleum products, which rose on anticipation of strong petrol demand this summer and a stricter U.S. petrol vapour pressure rule, which will tighten stocks.

Interest rate pressure eases in U.S.

WASHINGTON (R) — A smaller than expected rise in U.S. consumer prices last month signals less inflation than previously feared and eases pressure on the Federal Reserve (Fed) to raise interest rates, economists said.

The consumer price index, the most widely used inflation gauge, rose a moderate 0.4 per cent in February after jumping 0.6 per cent in January, the Labour Department said Tuesday.

Although inflationary pressures still abound in the economy, the more moderate rise in prices makes it less likely that the Fed will move swiftly to tighten credit another notch, economists said.

"This takes some of the pressure off them," said economist Cynthia Latta of Data Resources, a Massachusetts-based economic forecasting firm. "But I think that

they will tighten some more before summer."

The Fed has gradually raised interest rates by more than three percentage points over the past year in an effort to cool the economy and restrain inflationary pressure.

President Bush said the smaller increase in consumer prices should lessen fears of a sharp rise in inflation, adding that he would not like to see U.S. economic growth choked off by high interest rates.

"I don't want to see any actions taken that are going to kill off the growth in our economy," Bush told reporters in a brief question and answer session at the White House.

Although denying any policy differences with the central bank, Bush seemed to be signalling

Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan to go easy on interest rates.

"Look, he's calling the shots his way," Bush said. "And I've said we will be vigilant against inflation, but we want this recovery to keep going. I don't want it killed off by too restrictive a policy."

Lately, the economy has begun to show signs of slowing, with declines in retail sales, imports, housing starts and the operating rate of manufacturing industries. A significant slowdown or recession would reduce the tax revenue Bush is counting on to reduce the federal budget deficit.

So far this year, the consumer price index has risen at an annual rate of 6.1 per cent, up from the 4.4 per cent annual inflation rate

in the previous two years.

Even though the February increase cheered financial markets because it was lower than expected, economists said the inflation rate is still too high.

"We are not out of the woods as far as inflation is concerned," said economist Kathryn Kobe of Joel Popkin and Co., a Washington forecasting firm.

Last month's slowdown in consumer price increase reflected more modest gains in food, tobacco, entertainment and energy prices and a drop in clothing prices, the department said.

The so-called core rate of inflation, which excludes the erratic prices of food and energy, also rose 0.4 per cent in February after a 0.5 per cent rise in January.

Airbus Industrie announces restructuring

PARIS (R) — The four-nation Airbus Industrie consortium Tuesday announced a boardroom shake-up aimed at making the

loss-making European aircraft-maker more cost efficient and competitive.

The changes, which will tighten up management and financial control, include the appointment for the first time of a finance director, a reduction in supervisory board members to five from 17, and the creation of an executive board.

Airbus Industrie said in a statement the financial director would be responsible for ensuring full and open accounts throughout the group, forcing the Airbus partners for the first time to divulge their costs.

The slimmed-down supervisory board will continue as the main overall policy control body, with responsibility over strategic decisions concerning current and future Airbus programmes. All changes will take effect

from April 1, Airbus said.

It said the changes stemmed in part from a report on the workings of Airbus Industrie submitted to the governments of the four partner countries last year by four industrialists, the so-called "four wise men."

"The improvements will lighten the aircraft manufacturer's market competitiveness by bringing about a stricter control of programme costs, and will speed the consortium on the road to profitability, transforming its technical and commercial achievements into an economic success," the statement added.

The consortium, set up in 1970

and funded by France, West Germany, Britain and Spain, has seen its losses aggravated by a weak dollar, the currency in which aircraft sales are priced.

Airbus is owned 38 per cent each by France's Aerospatiale and West Germany's Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm (MBB), 20 per cent by British Aerospace PLC and four per cent by Spain's Construcciones Aeronauticas S.A. (CASA).

The United States, backed by McDonnell Douglas Corp and Boeing Co., has long complained that the European consortium was receiving unfair government subsidies.

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CHURCH CONCERT

At the Evangelical Lutheran Good Shepherd Church on Friday March 24 at 5 p.m.

— Choir from Finland (16 singers)
— Choir (Arabic) from local Baptist Church
Entrance free

The church is located in Um Al-Summaq close to Mecca Street - 50 metres from Um Al-Summaq's Municipality

For more information pls call Rev. Numan Smir, tel. 811295 or Rev. Veil Jarvinen, tel. 822605.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

The contractors who had been qualified previously for the Seventh Education Project and willing to participate in the following bid are requested to get bid documents from the Projects and Buildings Directorate, Ministry of Education from 20-3-1989 with the following conditions:-

- The Seventh Education Project is partially financed by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.
- Description of Tender. Price Tender Bond
JD JD
- Tender No. 48/D/88 construction of school buildings in Fadian
Area (4130) Sq. M. 150 10000
- Last date for purchasing copies of tender documents is 4.5.1989
- Last date for submitting financial offers is 13.5.1989 at 12.00 noon at the Ministry of Education.

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Please call 685848 between 11.00 and 16.00 for an appointment. Only those with above requirements need apply. The post offers attractive conditions.

EXPECTATION AND REALITY IN THE NEW HOMELAND INVITATION

On the occasion of Family Day and within the cultural activities of the

Jordanian-Turkish Friendship Association

A meeting on the subject of

Problems of Foreign Women in their new Homes

Will be held at 10 a.m., Saturday 25th March 1989, in the Hall of the Jordanian-Turkish Friendship Association

Rainbow Street, Tel. 639918

The speakers will be:

Mrs. Nijma Hikat, Prof. Fatimah Alko 'Afir Mrs. Janset Shami Ladies are welcome

Kuwaiti law restricts work for expatriates

KUWAIT (R) — A law banning expatriates in the Kuwait private sector from working part-time or changing jobs before completing three years with their employer came into force Wednesday.

Labour ministry officials say the law aims to boost productivity among some 500,000 workers in the private sector, most of whom are expatriates. But some em-

ployers say the loss of labour mobility will increase their costs.

Expatriates are to work only for their sponsor and for a period of three years before being able to change employer.

Those who have resided in Kuwait for 10 years or more may be exempted. Violators are subject to deportation, according to a text published in local papers.

'Drop of cheer on beer'

LONDON (R) — British public houses may be going private.

The Monopolies and Mergers Commission recommended Tuesday that within three years Britain's six biggest breweries should sell off 22,000 pubs, more than a quarter of the country's total.

Pubs could then buy beer and other drinks from the most competitive suppliers and would not be tied to selling one brewer's products.

Trade and industry secretary Lord Young backed the panel's view that the major brewers had forced up prices by controlling too many outlets.

"The present system severely limits the opportunities for an independent wholesaling sector to prosper," he told parliament. "I am minded to implement these

recommendations."

On Wednesday, newspapers welcomed proposals that the "big six" breweries — Bass, Allied, Courage, Watneys, Whitbread and Scottish and Newcastle — should run only 2,000 pubs each.

"Drop of cheer on beer" exclaimed the tabloid Daily Star.

The brewers' society condemned the proposal as "a charter for chaos," which would destroy the traditional British pub. It warned that 33,000 pubs were at risk and job losses and closures were likely.

The report came hours after the monopolies commission vetoed moves by Courage, owned by Australian-based Elders IXL, to take over Scottish and Newcastle for £1.6 billion (\$2.8 billion).

THE SPANISH CULTURAL CENTRE

Announces that a three month training course in Spanish will start on March 27, 89 and that registration for the course will open March 20, 89.

The centre offers training at all levels at the rate of three classes a week: On Saturdays, Mondays, and Wednesdays.

For more information please call the SPANISH CULTURAL CENTRE, Jabal Amman - First Circle, Tel: 624049

Iraq to sell oil products from Basra next month

TOKYO (R) — Iraq's State Oil and Marketing Organisation (SOMO) has told the Japanese oil industry it will start exporting naphtha, fuel oil and gas oil produced at its recently-restarted Basra refinery from end-April, oil industry sources said.

They said they expect SOMO to issue tenders soon to sell 20,000 to 30,000 tonnes of naphtha, around 50,000 tonnes of fuel oil, and an unspecified amount of gas oil for end-April loading, though SOMO has yet to issue official notices.

SOMO will ship the products in small batches on shuttle tankers to storage at Jebel Ali in Dubai before final export.

SOMO agreed with Star Energy Resources, a UAE-based trader, to use three of their storage tanks for a two-year term for the storage of the Basra products

from March this year, the industry sources said.

The three tanks are a 50,000 tonne fuel oil tank and two 30,000 tonne tanks for lighter products.

Larger tankers are unable to sail the Shatt Al-Arab waterway up to Basra because of shallow water and debris from the Iran-Iraq war, the sources said.

Iraq is likely to develop the oil product sales into term contracts after selling on a spot basis for a while.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday, March 22, 1989 Central Bank official rates				
U.S. dollar	Buy	Sell	French franc	84.7 85.5
Pound Sterling	538.0	542.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	408.7 413.0
Deutschemark	924.3	934.1	Dutch guilder	25.3 25.7
Swiss franc	286.9	289.7	Swedish crown	84.2 85.0
	330.4	343.9	Italian lira (for 100)	39.1 39.5
			Belgian franc (for 10)	137.0 138.3

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.7190/200	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1890/900	Canadian dollar	
	1.8740/47	Deutschemark	
	2.1135/45	Dutch guilders	
	1.6285/95	Swiss francs	
	39.24/27	Belgian francs	
	6.3450/500	French francs	
	1374/1375	Italian lire	
	131.50/60	Japanese yen	
	6.3850/900	Swedish crowns	
	6.8050/100	Norwegian crowns	
	7.3110/60	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	394.00/	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Investors were encouraged by the brighter U.S. inflation outlook. The All Ordinaries Index gained 2.8 points to close at 1,486.5.

TOKYO — An initial rally faded as investors jittery over inflation and interest rates both here and abroad took profits and decided to wait it out. The Nikkei Index fell 211.56 points to close at 31,443.24.

HONG KONG — Profit-taking ahead of a four-day weekend deflated an early bounce. "It's incredibly dull and it's likely to stay that way for the time being," said a broker. The Hang Seng Index shed 19.38 points to end at 3,03

116 nations adopt toxic waste treaty

BASLE, Switzerland (R) — Most of the world's governments adopted a U.N.-sponsored treaty Wednesday to check the proliferating trade in hazardous waste.

Delegates broke into applause a 116-nation conference unanimously approved the document. A smaller number were due to sign it later. A spokesman for the African group said their governments intended to consult with each other later in the year before signing but added that the group approved the treaty.

"Our agreement has not halted the commerce in poison," U.N. Undersecretary-General Mostafa Tolba told the conference.

"But it has signalled the international resolve to eliminate the menace hazardous wastes pose to the welfare of our shared environment and to the health of all the world."

Malian Environment Minister Moryling Kone said on behalf of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) that African nations wanted the OAU to pronounce on the treaty before they would sign. The OAU has expressed outrage at foreign waste dumping in Africa.

He said it would be considered at a meeting in Bamako, Mali, in May or June.

Developing nations had clamoured for the pact in order to end what they called "garbage imperialism," the dumping of the

industrialised world's waste on their territory.

But environmentalists charged that the agreement contained many loopholes through which the multi-billion-dollar waste trade would continue.

Greenpeace activists scaled the face of a building opposite the hall where the delegates were meeting and hung an enormous yellow banner: "Danger Basel convention legalises toxic terror."

Some African delegates said more needed to be done, but many delegates said the treaty was the best that could be hoped for given different demands by richer and poorer nations.

"Ninety per cent of what could be done has been done," said Kenyan Environment Minister J.J.M. Nyagah. "We have some-

thing to build on."

Momentum for the negotiations built last year when 4,000 tonnes of Italian toxic waste were found oozing from barrels in an unprotected site in Nigeria.

That incident brought other schemes to light by which companies in countries with strict environmental laws were paying handsomely for their poisonous substances to be disposed of in countries with more lax rules or none at all.

At the heart of the treaty are provisions that waste exports only be allowed to countries which will handle them safely.

"Each party shall require that hazardous wastes or other wastes, to be exported, are managed in an environmentally sound manner in the state of import or elsewhere," it stipulates.

Improperly disposed of, hazardous wastes such as dioxin and DDT can contaminate soil, groundwater and the air, causing a range of health problems from cancer to serious birth defects.

Several organisations that closely followed the negotiations said, however, that many of the provisions were vague and governments would be able to continue the waste trade by means of bilateral agreements outside the convention.

Such agreements are allowed but any trade under them must be "environmentally sound."

"International waste trade will flourish under this convention," Greenpeace delegate Jim Vallette told Reuters.

The convention will come into force three months after 20 countries have ratified it.

Polish Sejm starts reviewing reforms

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Parliament began discussions Wednesday on constitutional changes to create a freely-elected senate, an idea developed during historic talks between the Communist government and the opposition.

The parliament, or Sejm, will also consider the creation of a strong presidency, and laws on elections, associations and political clubs, trade unions and farmers unions.

"The model of economy and way of wielding power adopted in the '40s ceased to fulfil its function... our goal is to build a good basis for social democracy," said Jan Kaczmarek, a Communist Party parliament deputy who spoke during the debate's early hours.

Following the first formal readings of the legislation, the bills are to be handed over to committees that will consider them for several weeks and add amendments suggested by the government.

Spokesmen for the opposition, led by the banned Solidarity trade union, protested last week that draft bills were sent to the parliament before full discussion at the talks with the government.

But the government promised the legislation could still be amended.

Because the parliament is controlled by the Communist Party,

any legislation agreed upon by the party leadership is assured of eventual passage.

The constitutional changes are part of a compromise both sides are negotiating at the talks that began Feb. 6 and are scheduled to end April 3 with the signing of a new "social contract" to set Poland's future course.

During the parliament's two-day session, government and opposition teams focusing on the economy and the mass media scheduled meetings to see if they could remove remaining differences.

In exchange for restoring Solidarity's status as the first independent trade union in the East Bloc, the government hopes for a period of political stability.

They hope that such stability will improve chances for economic recovery — controls already have been loosened on private entrepreneurs — and make Western lenders sympathetic to Poland's staggering foreign debt and current investment needs.

"The point is first of all to consolidate and sanction legally the democratic direction of reforms, to create conditions allowing all political forces to join in the constructive work for the nation and the state," Tadeusz Witold Mlynarczyk, leader of Communist-allied Democratic Party, said during the parliament debate.

Communists challenge Craxi

ROME (R) — Achille Occhetto, leader of the West's biggest Communist Party, challenged Italy's Socialists Tuesday to join a left-wing offensive against the Christian Democrats' 40-year hold on power.

In a speech closing debate at the five-day Congress of the Italian Communist Party (PCI), Occhetto defied Socialist leader Bettino Craxi to choose between joining a left-wing alliance that could transform Italy or continue to participate in Christian Democrat-led governments.

Responding to a statement by Christian Democrat (DC) leader Arnaldo Forlani that the Communists had tried to overthrow his party for 40 years but would never succeed, Occhetto declared to loud applause:

"Is this a challenge only to us? ...I would like to ask our Socialist comrades: Don't you feel challenged by this statement, or do you want to leave us to carry alone the banner of an alternative?"

The Communists are Italy's second biggest party but they have been locked in opposition, while the dominant Christian Democrats led all but four post-war governments.



Bettino Craxi

This has helped undermine the Communists' appeal and in local elections last May they slumped to 22 per cent, their worst result for 35 years.

At the same time Craxi has led a revival of the Socialists, now only four points behind the Communists compared with 25 per cent a decade ago.

Craxi's eventual aim is to topple the DC but while the left remains too weak, he has chosen to remain in government with the DC as the best way to boost his power.

In Tuesday's speech on the penultimate day of the Congress, Occhetto attacked this strategy. He said Craxi's price for a left-wing alliance was dominance by the Socialists and self-destruction by the PCI.

Peking loosens political grip

PEKING (AP) — Communist Party authorities Tuesday announced a plan to allow other political parties to participate in China's government.

But the official Xinhua news agency said multi-party cooperation would occur only under the leadership of the Communist Party. Eight parties currently exist under the Communists' control.

The plan comes as a growing number of intellectuals are calling for more political freedom and appears to be an attempt by the Communist Party to silence some of its critics without actually relinquishing any power.

Yan Mingfu, who heads the Communist Party's office that deals with other parties, said the plan will be ready by June or July.

He made the remark during a meeting with members of the Chinese People's Consultative Conference from Hong Kong and Macao, currently meeting in Peking. The conference is an advisory body to the government.

Yan said the move is part of larger political reforms.

China also is moving to separate the functions of the Communist Party and the government. In the past, the party directly controlled the government. Now, Yan said, the party would guide the government through the enactment of laws.

Secondly, Yan said the National People's Congress, China's legislature, should be strengthened. The Congress, which also is meeting in Peking, used to be a rubber-stamp for Communist Party policies. But it was not clear how the Congress would be strengthened and whether that would affect its control by the party.

Yan said the multi-party plan must be "suited to realities in China."

No copying

"Establishment of a democratic system can only proceed in accordance with existing conditions on the mainland," he said. "It won't do to copy the Western mode, nor the mode now existing in Taiwan."

Taiwan has been ruled by the Nationalists since 1949, when communist forces drove them from the mainland. In 1987, opposition parties were legalised and martial law was lifted. Taiwan remains firmly in the hands of the Nationalists, who have 2.4 million members compared to the 13,000 members in the highest opposition party, the Democratic Progressive Party.

Peking argues that a system with opposition parties would be too chaotic and "inconsistent with the will of the Chinese people."

The party says it needs stability to solve China's pressing economic problems, such as record high inflation of 36 per cent.

But many intellectuals say the economic problems will persist unless the party relaxes tight political control.

In another conciliatory move, China announced it would appoint more people from outside the party to government positions. The first such appointments were made Friday to fill the posts of vice-minister of labour and vice-minister of agriculture.

In all, three vice-ministers out of about 30 are non-members of the Communist Party.

Chinese sources said the appointments will be made to present an image of democracy and to take some of the blame off the Communist Party for failed policies.

Many of the eight small parties, like the Jiusan (September 9th) Society that includes scientists and engineers, are professional groupings that avoid politics.

The eight parties now have about 470,000 members, compared to the 44-million strong Communist Party. Many of the non-Communists are elderly and a major concern for the Communist Party is to find young people willing to join the groups.

Bush to go ahead with FSX project

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bush said Tuesday he wanted to go ahead with joint U.S.-Japanese production of an advanced F-16 fighter plane "with certain clarifications" and was awaiting Japan's response.

"I don't know when there'll be an official announcement but I've made my decision to go forward with certain clarifications," Bush told reporters during a brief question and answer session in the Oval Office.

Critics of the plan for the new aircraft, to be known as the FSX, fear it will provide Japan with secret U.S. technology.

While House spokesman Martin Fitzwater had said earlier in the day that Secretary of State James Baker had discussed the proposed clarifications with Japanese Ambassador Noboru Matsunaga at a State Department meeting Monday.

Asked if he had received a response from Tokyo, Bush said there had been "no representation to the Oval Office" yet.

Baker, joined by Defence Secretary Dick Cheney, Commerce Secretary Robert Mosbacher and National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft, met Matsunaga to discuss "various options and aspects related to the decision," Fitzwater said.

"We're interested in their (Japan's) view of some of the suggestions we've made and some of the options we've laid out," the spokesman added.

An announcement of Bush's

final decision on how to proceed with the agreement by former President Ronald Reagan last year to let Japan to co-produce the FSX was "still likely this week," Fitzwater said.

The inherited agreement sparked the first major foreign policy row of the new administration.

Some of Bush's advisers argued that the project would give away technology that Japan needed to compete with the United States in manufacturing civilian planes. Another faction said U.S.-Japan relations could be harmed if Washington reneged on or drastically modified the agreement.

The Washington Post quoted unidentified sources Tuesday as saying that changes sought by Bush included new safeguards for computer source codes.

These would allow U.S. technology to be shared with Japan for the FSX with restrictions that would keep the Asian economic powerhouse from applying it to other planes.

A group of U.S. Senators have asked Bush to break the FSX agreement but administration officials repeatedly said Bush would at most try to revise it to meet critics' objections.

U.S. officials said it was not at all certain the Japanese will be willing to accept changes, raising a possibility that Tokyo would scrap the deal if it were dissatisfied with Bush's proposed modifications.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Soweto teachers protest

SOWETO (AP) — High schools in Soweto were virtually deserted Wednesday as students and teachers stayed away to protest overcrowding, teacher shortages and restrictive admission policies. The "day of peaceful action" was announced last week by student and teacher organisations with the support of the South African council of churches, an active foe of apartheid. The groups said 3,000 students in Soweto, the country's largest black township, were prevented from attending high school because of these policies. The groups called for unconditional readmission of students who failed graduation examinations, hiring of more teachers and construction of new schools. The Department of Education and Training said it was seeking to give parents an increased voice in education policies and asserted that confrontational tactics would not improve the situation. "The department is aware of backlogs and is doing everything in its power to accommodate pupils in its schools," said a department spokesman, Corrie Rademeyer, after the protest was announced.

German firms aided Pakistan

BONN (AP) — The weekly magazine Stern reported Tuesday that at least 70 West German companies provided Pakistan with technology to develop atomic weapons and that Bonn officials ignored intelligence reports about the apparently illegal exports. A regional prosecutor in the city of Hanau, Klaus Schneider, confirmed to the AP that his office came across information implicating the firms during a review of Pakistani banking records. The office brought the findings to the attention of Federal Customs authorities. Schneider said, Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has repeatedly stated that her country does not have nuclear weapons and has no intention of developing them. "From special

steel, optical equipment and computers to highly explosive tritium, the German companies delivered practically everything that is needed for the construction of an atomic bomb — in part intentionally and in part certainly in good faith," Stern said in a report provided to news media.

Papua New Guinea riots

PORT MORESBY (R) — Hundreds of tribesmen, some armed with spears and bows and arrows, went on a rampage through the business district of the Papua New Guinea capital Wednesday. Port Moresby police used teargas to disperse the tribesmen, who overturned cars, smashed shop windows, stoned bystanders and looted stores. The trouble broke out when the tribesmen tried to march on parliament in protest at the death of a youth leader, allegedly killed by members of another tribe. The marchers became unruly after they were turned back before reaching parliament house, witnesses said. Some demonstrators were injured but there were no major casualties, police said. Violence in the South Pacific nation's capital came the day after Prime Minister Rabie Namaliu ordered a platoon of troops to help police halt fighting on the mining island of Bougainville.

45 Indonesians arrested

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesian security forces have arrested 45 people in Dompu on the island of Sumbawa, east of Bali, for stirring up anti-government and ethnic unrest, home affairs minister Rudini said Wednesday. He said the arrests last week had links to a clash in February between security forces and agitators accused of inciting Muslim fanaticism in Lampung district, south Sumatra. At least 31 people died in the clashes in Lampung, 2,000 kilometres from Dompu. "There was an ethnic problem in Dompu and it was encouraged by elements linked to the Lampung case," Rudini told reporters.

S. African activists end embassy sit-in

PRETORIA (R) — Four South African black activists who took refuge in West German embassy Monday to protest against detention without trial left the mission Wednesday.

"We are leaving the embassy now in a victorious mood. We are very happy about what we have done," said Ephraim Nkwe, one of the four.

The four, who escaped from a Johannesburg hospital where they were being treated for the after-effects of a hunger strike, left the embassy after the government said they were free men.

Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok said Tuesday that release orders for the four had been signed and that they would not be re-arrested after they left the embassy.

The four had made four demands including that all prisoners held without trial under South African emergency laws be released.

The four looked cheerful as they walked out of the embassy

soon after 10 a.m. (0800 GMT). They ended their sit-in at the West German embassy although all their demands had not been met. But Nkwe, acting as spokesman for the group, said Vlok had given certain assurances about the demands.

He did not elaborate but the four are due to appear at a news conference in Johannesburg later Wednesday.

Nkwe thanked the embassy staff, saying they had been helpful and caring.

The incident embarrassed South African authorities, particularly because of the apparent ease with which the four gave their police guards the slip at Johannesburg's Hillbrow hospital.

The group had taken part in a sporadic hunger strike by several hundred detainees which started Jan. 23.

Pretoria has freed more than 500 of the estimated 1,000 detainees since the strike started.

COLUMN

Thatcher declares war

LONDON (R) — It's clear to many and now the government has made it official: Britain is dirty, and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is determined to do something about it. Using doggerel to launch a clean-up crusade, Thatcher announced Saturday: "We are declaring war on litter: Bag it and bin it and that way we'll win it." She pledged that laws to impose tough new controls on pollution and waste disposal will be part of a "green bill" to be introduced in Parliament later in the year. Laughter and applause greeted her rhyme at a Conservative Party conference she was addressing in the resort of Scarborough, north-east England. Minutes earlier the meeting heard blunter words from Environment Secretary Nicholas Ridley. "We are indeed a dirty nation," he said. "Our streets, our road and motorways, our railway lines and stations, the outskirts of our towns are often filthy with litter and rubbish. 'Old bedsides in ditches rubble tipped behind bedges scrap cars abandoned in thickets: we have all seen it.'"

Nobel prize worth more

STOCKHOLM (R) — The value of the Nobel Prizes has been increased by 20 per cent to three million Swedish crowns (\$470,000), the Nobel Foundation said Tuesday. The foundation manages the estate of dynamite inventor Alfred Nobel which finances the annual prizes for outstanding achievements in physics, chemistry, medicine, literature, peace and economics. This year's winners will be announced in October and receive their awards at ceremonies in Stockholm and Oslo in December.

New Zealand seizes Dr. Ruth's book

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — New Zealand customs officials Saturday seized 4500 copies of a book written by U.S. sex therapist Dr. Ruth Westheimer, saying it may be pornographic. Customs Department spokesman Robin Duth said the copies of "Dr. Ruth's Guide to Sex" were being held in Auckland until the Indecent Publications Tribunal had ruled on its acceptability. Dr. Westheimer is due to visit New Zealand next week to promote the book, which has sold well in neighbouring Australia. A spokeswoman for her publisher, Transworld Publisher, Jacqui Dimes, said she was stunned by the decision to hold the book.

Coming Relief collects \$3.6m for homeless

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Comic Relief III, which featured the talents of Billy Crystal, Whoopi Goldberg, Robin Williams and other comedians, collected \$3.6 million in pledges of money to help the homeless. The amount was nearly \$1 million more than last year's donations, said Comic Relief Vice-President Dennis Albaugh. The four-hour telethon was televised Saturday night on the Home Box Office cable network with Joe Piscopo, Garry Shandling, Shelley Long, Bobcat Goldthwait and John Larroquette joining hosts Crystal, Goldberg and Williams. The two previous Comic Relief shows amassed more than \$5 million to fund homeless relief efforts in nearly two dozen U.S. cities, officials said. Entertainment donated all production costs, allowing all viewer donations to go directly to the non-profit Comic Relief Organisation.

Ceausescu faces growing isolation from East, West

By Colin McIntyre
Reuters

VIENNA — Romania's communist leader Nicolae Ceausescu faces growing isolation, under attack abroad from both East and West and at home from former top party officials.

The ultra-orthodox Ceausescu, 71, has long had a reputation for running the harshest regime in the Soviet bloc.

Romanian-born playwright Eugene Ionesco described it last month as "a daily nightmare of severe poverty and rampant fear of the secret police."

But the chorus of protests grew to a roar last year when Ceausescu, who has led the country for 24 years, announced plans to eliminate half the country's villages and rehouse the population in new urban centres.

The main reason put forward by Ceausescu is to bring the standard of living of country people nearer that of townspeople by grouping them into larger units where facilities such as schools, and cultural and leisure centres could be provided.

In earlier versions of the scheme he mentioned that it would also make 300,000 hectares of new farmland available, but that argument has since been dropped.

There have also been protests over Ceausescu's decision to bulldoze an old residential district of Bucharest, once described as the "Paris of the Balkans," to make way for a mammoth new civic centre.

Apart from the sheer scale of the project in one of Europe's poorest countries, and at a time of drastic shortages of food, electricity and heating, critics were angered

by reports that some residents had been given less than 24 hours to vacate their old homes.

At a meeting of European Community (EC) Foreign Ministers last month, Britain's Sir Geoffrey Howe said there was "universal astonishment about the way Romania behaves towards its citizens."

French President Francois Mitterrand told diplomats at a new year's reception he had no intention of visiting a regime he described as "anachronistic and wounding to the human conscience."

Earlier this month France recalled its ambassador to Bucharest and postponed planned bilateral talks in protest against the human rights situation in Romania.

The protests have not been confined to the West. Hungary, a communist ally of Romania, rewrote the tradi-

tional code of strict solidarity within the seven-nation Warsaw Pact by co-sponsoring a resolution to the U.N. Human Rights Commission demanding an investigation into alleged human rights abuses by Bucharest.

Criticism of Ceausescu's policies has also come from independent groups in other East Bloc allies such as Czechoslovakia and Poland.

The Hungarian government accused Bucharest in particular of violating the rights of the two million strong Hungarian minority in Romania by forcible assimilation, curbing the use of the Hungarian language and demolishing Hungarian villages under its rural reorganisation scheme.

In another departure from traditional East Bloc solidarity, the Soviet Union, the Ukraine, East Germany and

Bulgaria either abstained or did not take part in the vote for the resolution, passed by 21 votes to seven.

Romanian delegate Gheorghe Dolgu immediately condemned "a brutal interference" in his country's internal affairs, and declared the resolution null and void. This means a U.N. special envoy will not be allowed into the country, but will have to base his report on testimony from exiles.

Earlier this month the Inter-Parliamentary Union, at a meeting in Budapest, cancelled plans for a 35-nation meeting of parliamentarians in Bucharest, saying Romania was no longer a suitable venue to discuss European security and cooperation.

Criticism of Ceausescu has also come from inside Romania itself, a rare event in a country where dissent is quick-

ly suppressed by the powerful secret police.

In mid-March six former senior Communist Party officials, including a former foreign minister, former deputy prime minister and former ambassador to Washington and the United Nations, signed an open letter to the Romanian leader accusing him of violating human rights accords, ignoring constitutional guarantees and mismanaging the economy.

"At a time when the very idea of socialism, for which we have fought, is discredited by your policy, and when our country is being isolated in Europe, we have decided to speak up," the letter said, according to a copy reaching emigre groups in the West.

The signatories wrote that they were aware that by their action "we are risking our



Nicolae Ceausescu

liberty and even our lives."

Another of the signatories, former Politburo member and trade union leader Gheorghe Apostol, 77, said in an interview broadcast on Voice of America: "I am not afraid. I will not live very long and I want to die as a decent man."

The weather at major world capitals & cities

	22.3.1989	MIN	MAX	Weather
AMSTERDAM	05	41	52	Cloudy
ATHENS	07	45	20	Cloudy
BAHRAIN	15	59	24	75 Clear
BANGKOK	25	77	73	84 Clear
BUENOS AIRES	24	75	13	84 Clear
CAIRO	15	59	29	84 Clear
CHICAGO	06	21	02	35 Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	09	39	08	48 Cloudy
FRANKFURT	07	45	11	52 Rain
GENEVA	03	37	10	50 Clear
HONG KONG	14	57	19	61 Cloudy
ISTANBUL	08	46	16	61 Cloudy
LONDON	08	48	13	55 Cloudy
LOS ANGELES	15	59	29	84 Clear
MADRID	02	36	12	51 Clear
MECCA	17	63	35	95 Cloudy
MIAMI	23	73	26	78 Cloudy
MONTREAL	05	23	00	32 Cloudy
MOSCOW	17	63	32	90 Clear
NEW DELHI	02	36	08	48 Cloudy
NEW YORK	04	39	08	47 Cloudy
PARIS	08	46	14	57 Cloudy
ROME	07	45	28	68 Clear